





# MARVEL COMICS COVERS OF JACK KIRBY

VOLUME 1 1961-1964

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## INTRODUCTION

### BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

"This is the BIG ONE!"

"The one you DARE NOT MISS!"

"TRULY A MARVEL MASTERPIECE OF
MOST COMPELLING EXCELLENCE!"

Smilin' Stan Lee plastered Marvel comic covers with bombastic braggadocio and hyperactive hyperbole. But he could back up his showman's claims because behind them was the genius and artistry of Jack Kirby.

This collection is the first in a definitive series of every Marvel super-hero cover Kirby ever drew. It's another glorious testament to the quality and quantity of work produced by one of America's greatest artists in any field.

At his core, Kirby was a storyteller. His cover work told tales to astonish with single images. Dynamic drawings lured you in, wanting more. Kirby's covers had a raw energy and power that was right in your face. They glowed on the comics rack. They reached out and grabbed you as you joyously coughed up your twelve cents.

This volume is the early work (1961-1964) when "the Marvel Comics group ushers in the Marvel Age of Comics!" Lee and Kirby were putting out mostly monster books before reentering the super-hero pool. From the perspective of the covers, they tiptoed in. With the first three, they still had their feet in the monster world: a spiked creature, green space aliens, giant insects, and startled spectators. On the cover of Fantastic Four #2, our "super heroes" Reed Richards and Sue Storm are wearing a business suit and a sensible housedress, respectively. But the classic Fantastic Four #3 cover heralds a new age, igniting the flames that set the super-hero comics world on fire. A remnant of monster clichés remains, though: the startled crowds on rooftops. Just below the Fantastic Four #3 logo, a caption shouts: "THE GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE IN THE WORLD!!" And it truly was.

Kirby was known for how he magically captured action with characters leaping off the page, bombs bursting and krackle krackling. There are so many outstanding examples included here (Avengers #3 and #4, X-Men #1, Darrdevil #4). Kirby seemed especially inspired in his creation of the Sgt. Fury covers (#1, #3, #4, #8, #10, and #13). They transport you right into the heat of the battle.

I'm a big fan of Kirby's "minimal" covers that center on two figures—the elegant Strange Tales #107 (fire vs. water), Strange Tales Annual #2 (caught in a spider's web), and Tales of Suspense #58 (Iron Man and Captain America). These all portray a favorite recurring Marvel theme of hero fighting hero, with the end-all being Journey into Mystery #95, in which Thor fights himself.

Guilty pleasures abound when you peruse this book: the otherworldly transparent arm in Fantastic Four #13; the Fantastic Four and X-Men literally in the hands of the Awesome Android (Fantastic Four #28); Tales to Astonish #41, which has to be the most un-Kirby-like cover Kirby ever drew; and a hint of the future: the first "cosmic" cover with the Watcher (Fantastic Four #29).

There are so many A+ covers here that only Kirby could conceive. Look at Journey into Mystery #111. I have no idea what's going on, but I'm all in: the wonderful perspective of Thor coming at you wielding his hammer, the two villains cowering in fear as the walls collapse around them, the roof disappearing into the cosmic universe, the Rainbow Bridge swirling as a mysterious sword descends from the heavens. Kirby holds on to our eyes as he leads us on a dance around this sweeping composition. The unfortunate caption reads: "We decided that this cover is too beautiful to spoil with captions ... so here it is ... you figure it out!" Lee couldn't help himself.

This initial volume includes the debut covers for the Fantastic Four, the Hulk, Spider-Man, Thor, Iron Man, Ant-Man, Sgt. Fury, Daredevil, the Avengers, Captain America joining the Avengers, and Captain America joining the Howling Commandos (which was my absolute favorite at the time). All are iconic Kirby images that are now part of our shared consciousness, our Uni-Mind.

And this is just the opening act. Wait until you see when Kirby goes into overdrive.

Long live the King.



# ECHOES OF THE KING

## BY VINCENT IADEVAIA

I always told myself I'd never get into collecting Silver Age Marvel comics (1956-1969). I loved comics and eagerly awaited my weekly trip to my local comic shop, but collecting vintage books? No good would ever come of it.

But here I was at a convention in New York City, bright eyed and youthful, wandering the show floor. Fate must have intervened at some point, because I found myself staring down a booth selling the very books I told myself I'd never touch. I was instantly hooked looking over old Fantastic Four and Avengers covers, but I couldn't take my eyes off a really beat-up copy of Tales to Astonish #27, its giant ants still glowing atomic green despite having seen better days. I pulled every dollar I had out of my pocket and asked the vendor how much. "Ah, Jack Kirby; you've got good taste," he muttered, before telling me a price so high it made my ears ring. I gave that book a few more longing looks before walking away in defeat. On the train ride home, my mind started to wander and I almost missed my stop; all I could think about was that comic book cover and the name-Jack Kirby. I hadn't the slightest clue who he was.

The son of Austrian Jewish immigrants, Jacob Kurtzberg was born on August 28, 1917, in New York City. A talented artist without formal training, Kurtzberg entered the comics industry when he was eighteen, illustrating daily comics for newspapers under the pen names Jack Curtiss and Jack Cortez before ultimately landing on Jack Kirby. Kirby met Joe Simon in 1941, and together they created Captain America and countless other heroes during the Golden Age of Comics (1935–1956).

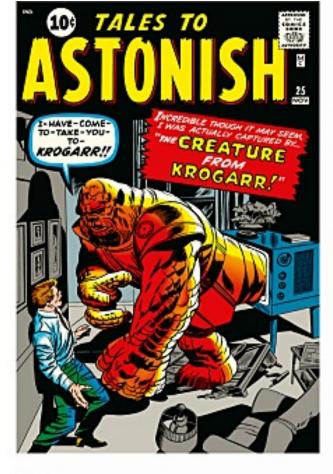
In 1958, Kirby, now forty-one and happily married with three kids, returned to freelance for Martin Goodman's company Atlas Comics, formerly known as Timely Comics. Interest in science fiction and monster movies was at an all-time high by the late 1950s, and in an effort to keep Atlas afloat, Goodman kept his staff focused on what was popular. Kirby teamed up with editor in chief Stan Lee, and the two debuted their first title, Strange

Worlds #1 (December 1958), with Kirby penciling the cover and feature story, "I Discovered the Secret of the Flying Saucers." On the cover, a massive purple flying saucer looms over the citizens of Earth as it warns them not to come any closer. For only ten cents, Strange Worlds kicked off a platform for Kirby to explore the mad scientists, weird aliens, and strange creatures that became early prototypes for the Marvel Age of Comics. In 1961, Goodman, who had just rebranded the company to Marvel Comics, noticed how well DC's comic books about the superhero team the Justice League of America were selling—despite the super-hero genre's unpopularity in the prior decade—and directed Kirby and Lee to come up with their own title.

Fantastic Four forever changed the comic book industry, bringing realism to a cliched genre and ushering in the Marvel Age of Comics. These "heroes" were unlike anything the public had ever seen on the pages of a comic book. Unlike those that came before them, these characters were flawed and human, which appealed to readers of all ages. Kirby and Lee reinvented the super-hero genre and created an endless universe for readers and themselves to explore.

I could analyze any cover here, but I'd like to focus on one often-overlooked cover from these early Fantastic Four issues that really stands out to me. Fantastic Four #7 (October 1962) is an unassuming cover, with Kirby and Lee leveraging their science fiction expertise to introduce some otherworldly foes from Planet X to their new fantastic team. Although it doesn't have the most dynamic cover from this period, upon closer examination, this comic book reveals a lot about its artist. It's also one of the few covers Kirby inked out of the hundreds of covers he penciled at Marvel.

In the early 1960s, Kirby and Lee clearly had a thing for orange rock monsters. "Sserpo! The Creature Who Crushed the Earth!" appeared in *Amazing Adventures #6* (November 1961), "Orrgo, the Unconquerable!" in *Strange* 



#### PAGE 6

Journey into Mystery #111-December 1964

#### PAGE 8

The Fantastic Four #7-October 1962

#### ABOVI

Tales to Astonish #25-November 1961

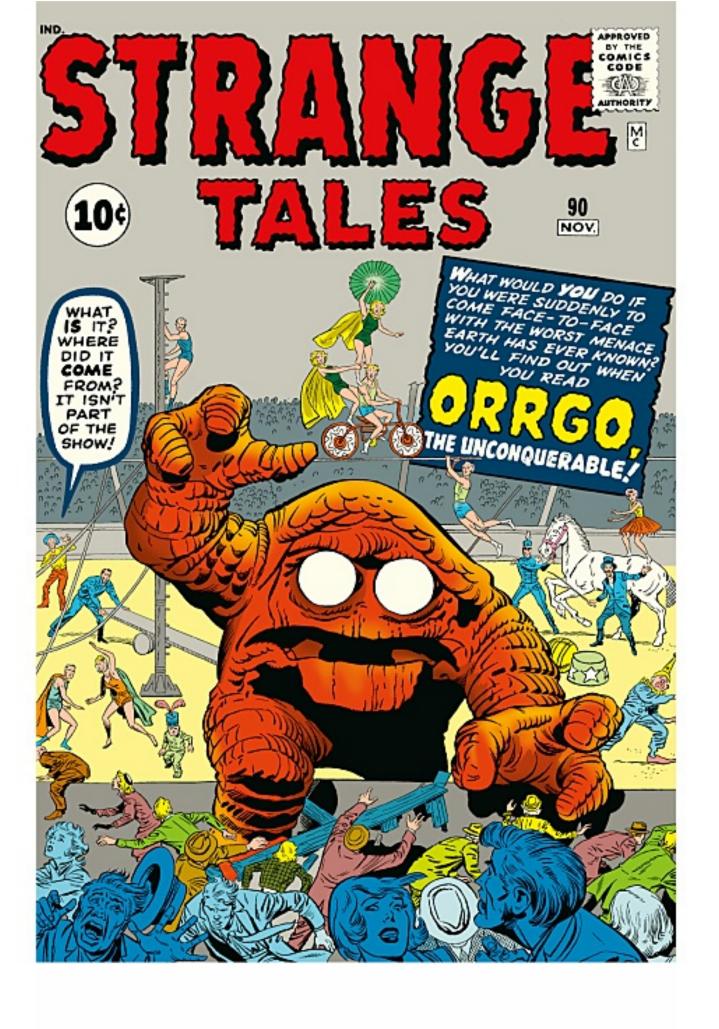
#### OPPOSITI

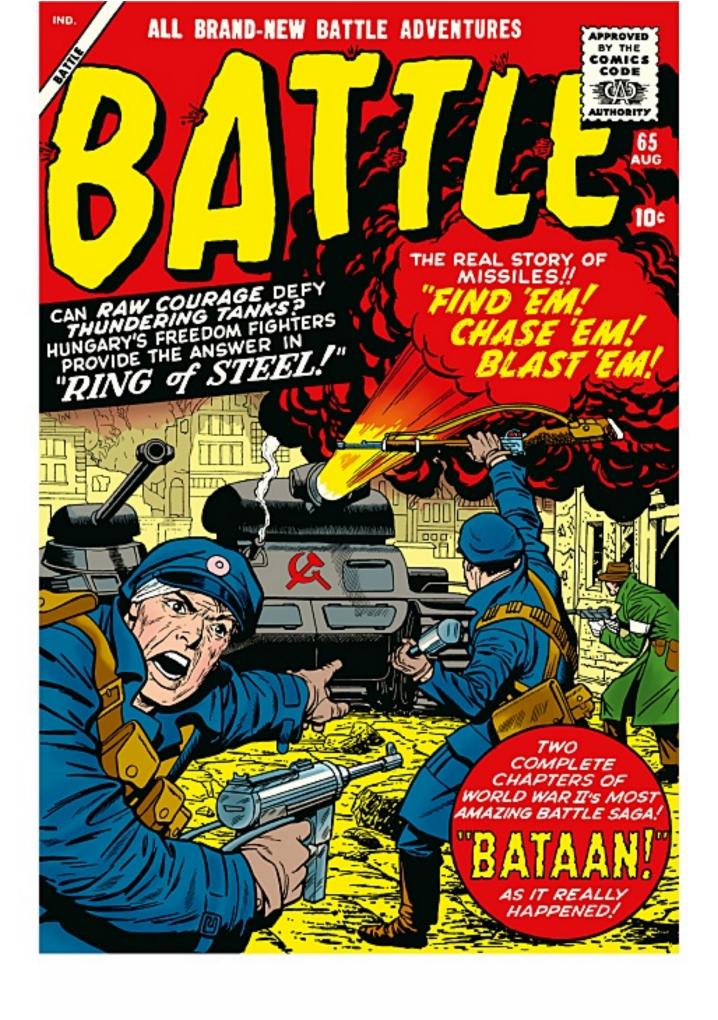
Strange Tales #90-November 1961

Tales #90 (November 1961), and "The Creature from Krogarr!" in Tales to Astonish #25 (November 1961)and that's not all of them! But unlike these destructive monsters, Ben Grimm had heart and soul. The Thing's background was inspired by Kirby's childhood; they were both born into and raised by a Jewish family on the Lower East Side of New York City. The neighborhood at the time was rough to say the least, filled with newcomers to the United States from all over the world. A second-generation American, Kirby grew up in one of the many tightly packed tenements that lined the city blocks while his father worked a factory job to support the family despite impoverished conditions during the Great Depression. He spent his days roaming the neighborhood with a tough gang of kids, always on the lookout for a ball game or a fight. The time Kirby spent growing up here instilled a toughness that persisted within him for the rest of his life. The Thing rose up from humble beginnings and faced constant challenges, but his spirit never wavered. He was someone who never backed down from a fight, be it literal or metaphorical. In creating the Thing, Kirby created a reflection of himself, a testament to the human spirit's ability to overcome adversity and fight for what's right.

Kirby's pencils and inks on the cover of Fantastic Four #7 turn this almost silly orange monster into a beautiful organic being, deep in thought. With his eyes closed, the Thing seems pensive—and it's hard not to wonder what he's thinking about. To me, he's reflecting on this gift/curse he's been dealt and the responsibility that comes with being a hero. (He's probably also thinking about clobberin' someone.) The Thing's early designs are also a great reminder that no Marvel character was perfect from the start. During these early years at Marvel, Kirby continued to hone his craft, refining these characters and pushing the boundaries of the medium. Sure, there were some misses along the way, but Kirby always continued to iterate, never losing sight of near perfection as he grew as a storyteller.

Equally deserving of our attention on this cover is Reed Richards, the enigmatic leader and brilliant scientist. Reed already looks a lot like Kirby to me—but it's even more evident on this cover. This portrait of Reed in many ways may be the closest self-portrait of Kirby we have from these early years at Marvel. Reminiscent of the ingenious scientists from the pre-Marvel monster stories, Reed and his grandiose plans of interstellar travel kick off the Marvel Universe. Mr. Fantastic embodied Kirby's inventive mind as he penciled incredible machines years before their time. Kirby drew the future, bringing to life flying cars powered by magnets and supercomputers small enough to fit in your pocket.





Reed also took on Kirby's past trauma, another characteristic that's frequently missed. Fantastic Four Annual #1 (Summer 1963) confirms that Mr. Fantastic's hair turned white at his temples after he helped Allied prisoners escape from the Nazis during World War II. Kirby was drafted on June 7, 1943, and arrived in Normandy ten days after D-day. As a scout in the Fifth Infantry Division, he spent the war creating maps of enemy territory as his unit marched through the north of France. When his unit liberated a concentration camp, the camp's appalling conditions and the emaciation of those imprisoned there left a lasting impact on him. In 1945, after suffering severe frostbite, Kirby was awarded a Combat Infantryman Badge and a Bronze Star Medal, and was honorably discharged from the US Army. He returned stateside to begin comics again, but his experiences during the war stayed with him, always finding their way into his work throughout the years. Reed's white hair, although such a simple detail that one can attribute to visual style, carries deep meaning and gives us a view into the artist's past.

It's been a long time since I heard the name Jack Kirby on that fateful day at the comic convention. What started as a small, meager collection of Kirby covers has become a lifelong pursuit that's bestowed on me unimaginable friendships and experiences along the way. Now, 512 comic books later, my collection still continues to grow, despite my lack of closet space. I could ramble on about Jack Kirby covers all day—it's my specialty—but this is where I'll leave you, where the true story begins. This collection of work from 1961 to 1964 that you're about to dig into is a brilliant display of Kirby's deep introspection and reinvention of the super-hero genre. The 183 covers presented in this first volume are shining examples of a revolution that took place in comic books and a tribute to the genius that is Jack Kirby, the King of Comics. I hope it stirs something deep inside your very being like it did for me all those years ago.



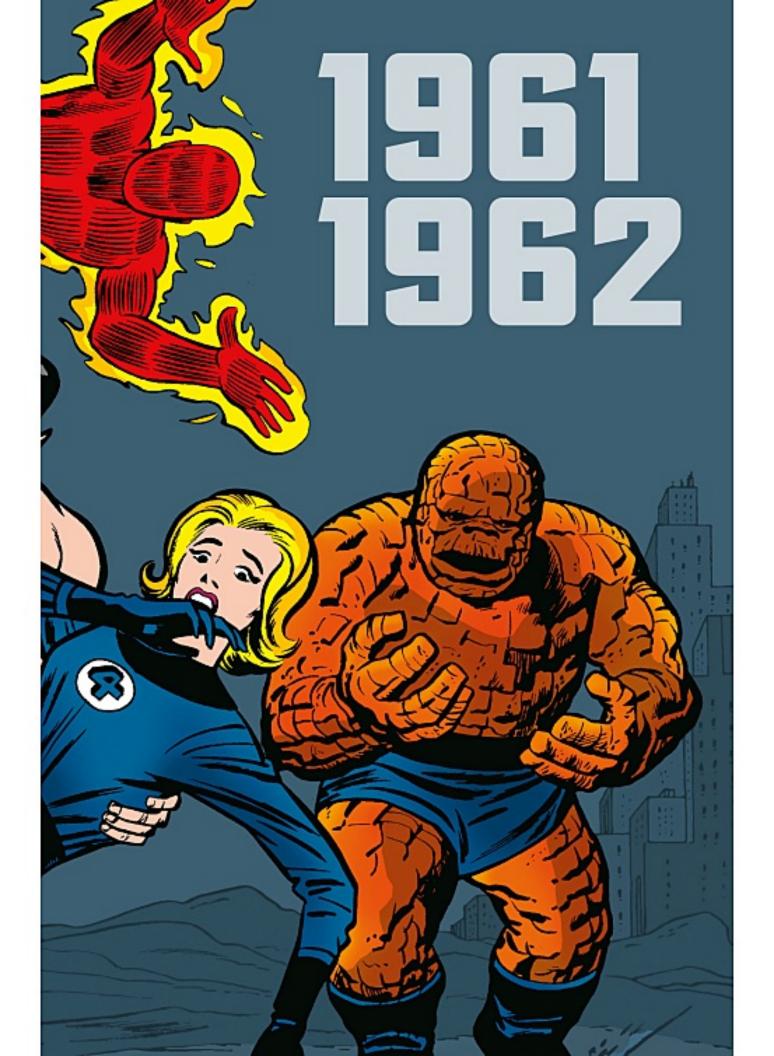
OPPOSITE

Battle #65-August 1959

ABOVE

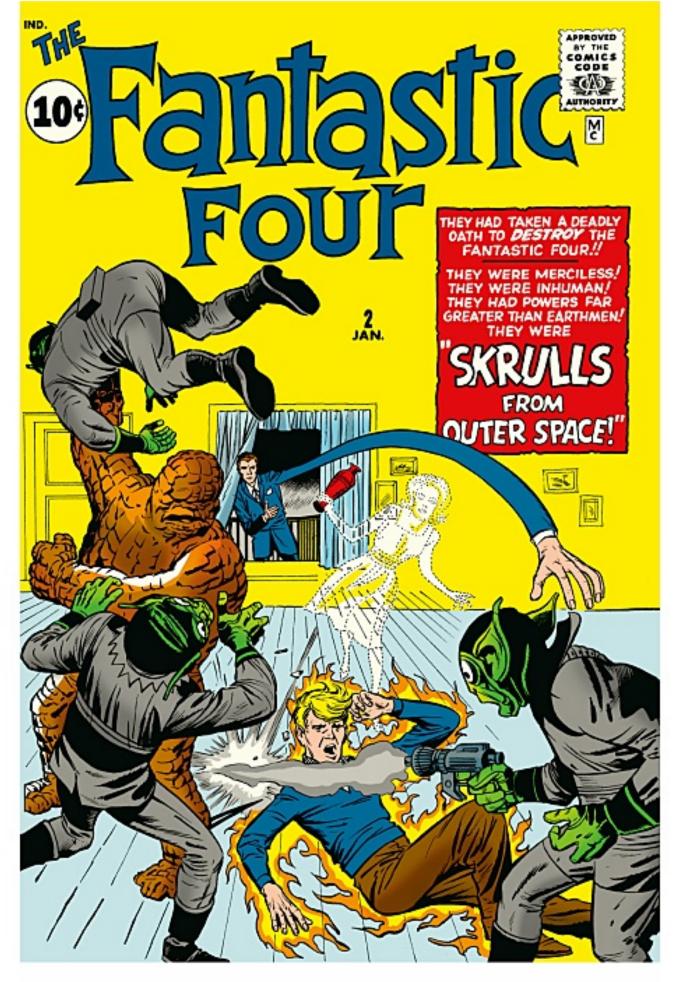
Fantastic Four Annual #1-Summer 1963







The Fantastic Four #1—November 1961 First appearance of the Fantastic Four and Mole Man



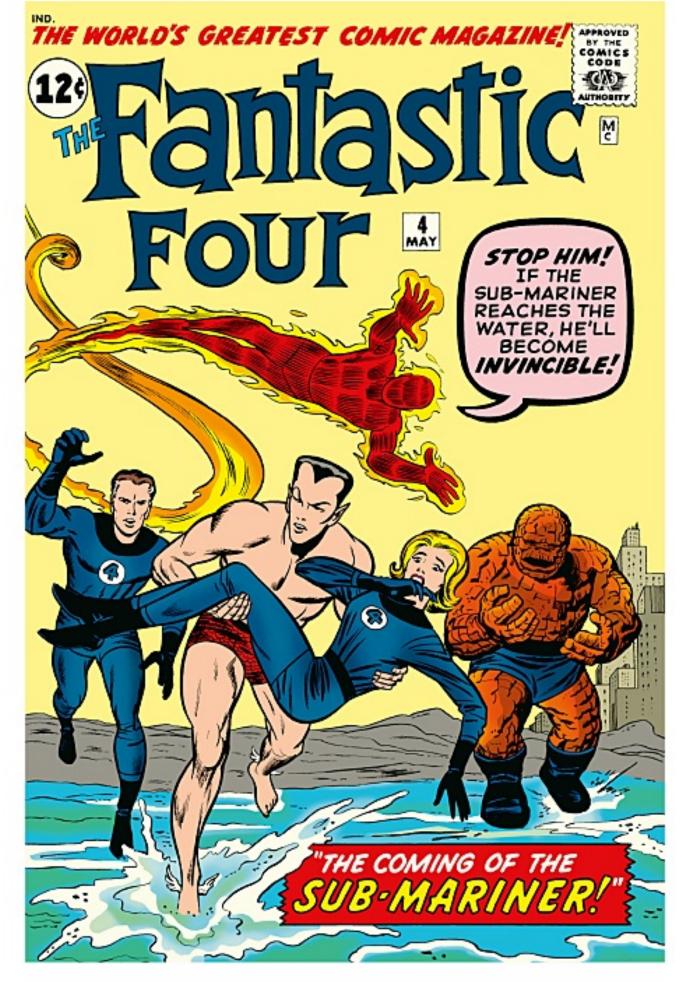
The Fantastic Four #2—January 1962 First appearance of the Skrulls



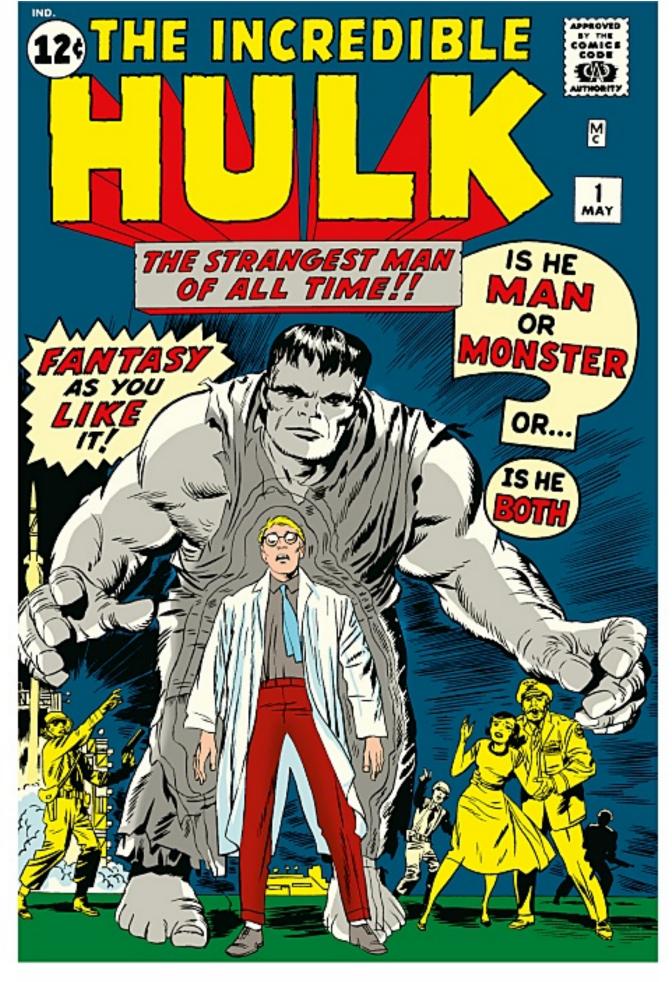
Tales to Astonish #27—January 1962 First appearance of Henry Pym



The Fantastic Four #3—March 1962 First appearance of the Fantastic Four costumes



The Fantastic Four #4—May 1962
First appearance of the Sub-Mariner in the Silver Age



The Incredible Hulk #1—May 1962 First appearance of Bruce Banner / gray Hulk



The Fantastic Four #5—July 1962 First appearance of Victor von Doom / Doctor Doom



The Incredible Hulk #2—July 1962 First appearance of green Hulk



Amazing Fantasy #15—August 1962 First appearance of Peter Parker / Spider-Man Inked by Steve Ditko



Journey into Mystery #83—August 1962 First appearance of Thor

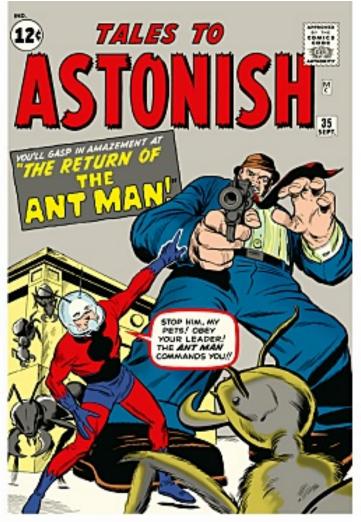


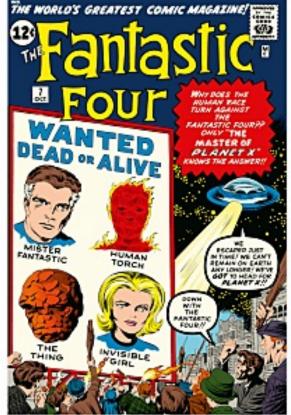
The Fantastic Four #6—September 1962
First Marvel supervillain team-up (Doctor Doom and the Sub-Mariner)



The Incredible Hulk #3-September 1962







#### TOP

Tales to Astonish #35—September 1962 First appearance of Ant-Man

#### MIDDLE

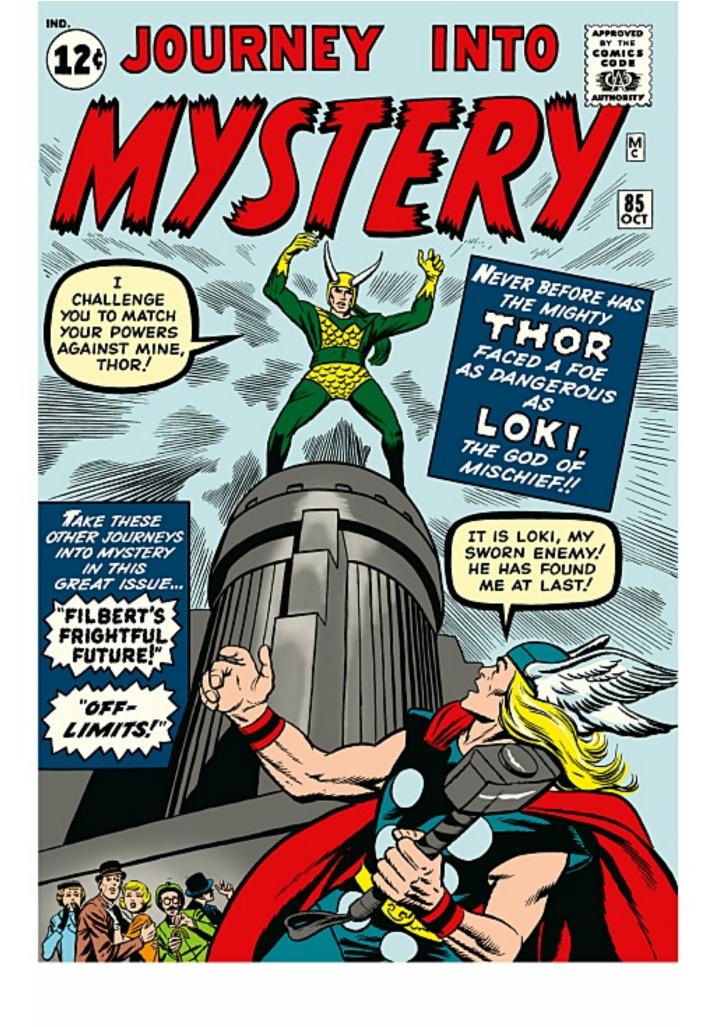
Journey into Mystery #84—September 1962 First appearance of Jane Foster

#### MOTTON

The Fantastic Four #7—October 1962
The only Fantastic Four cover inked by Jack Kirby

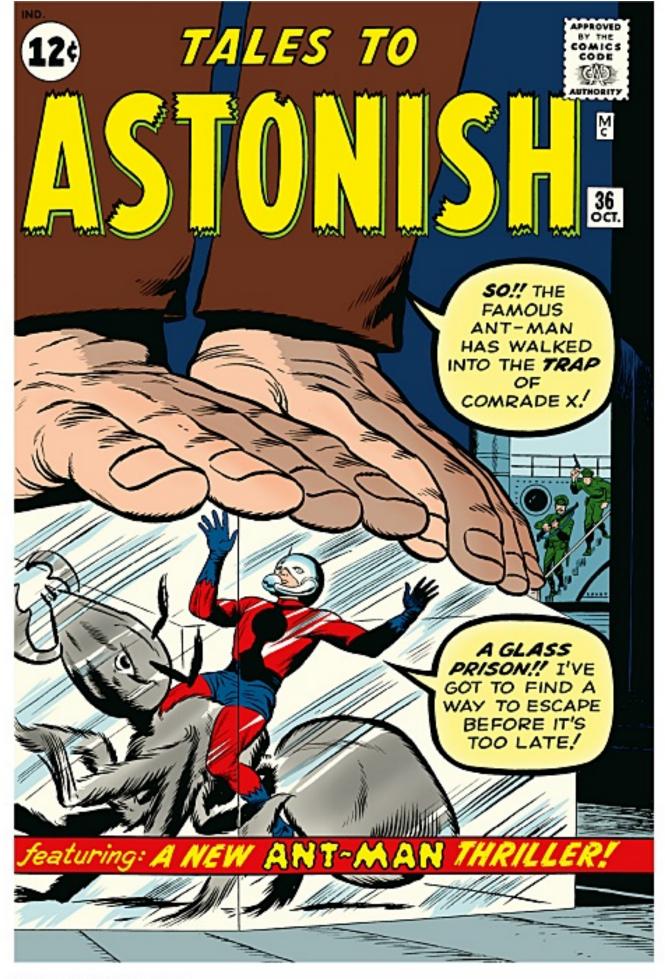
#### OPPOSITE

Journey into Mystery #85—October 1962 First appearance of Loki and Odin





Strange Tales #101—October 1962 First and only appearance of the Destroyer



Tales to Astonish #36—October 1962 First appearance of Comrade X



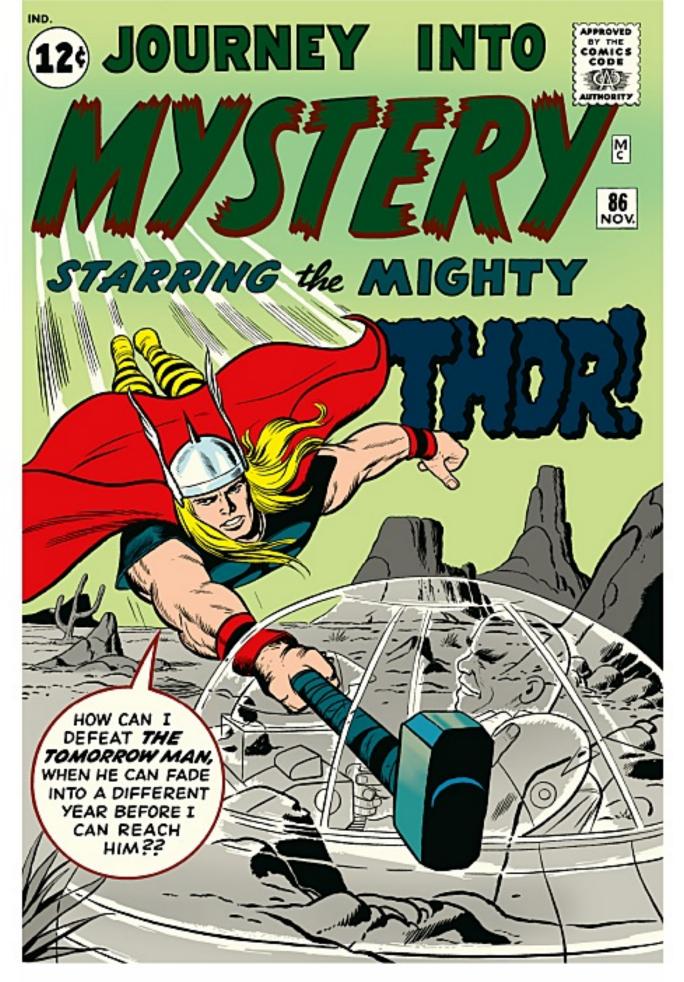
The Fantastic Four #8—November 1962 First appearance of Alicia Masters

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# 2 FEATURE- HULK THRILLERS IN THIS ISSUE!



The Incredible Hulk #4-November 1962

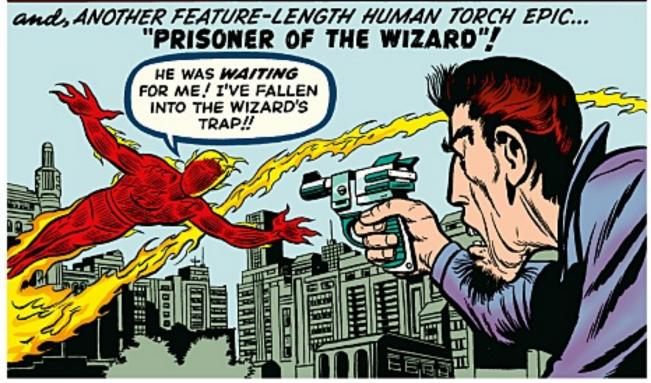


Journey into Mystery #86—November 1962 First appearance of Zarrko, the Tomorrow Man

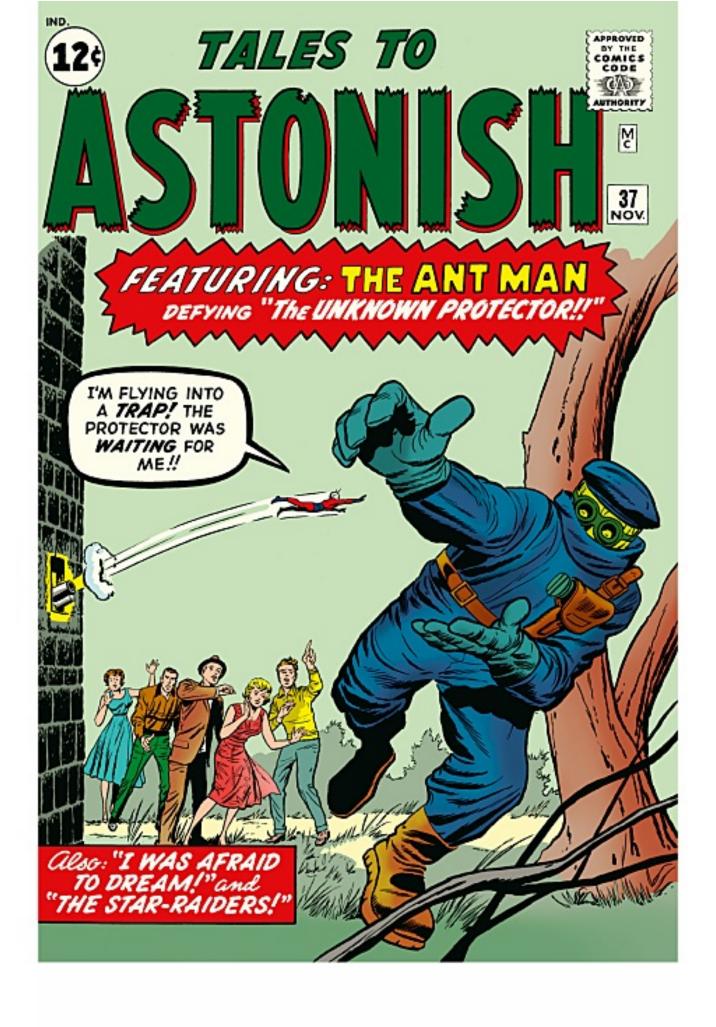


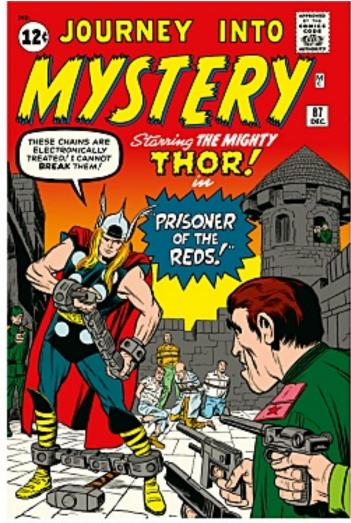


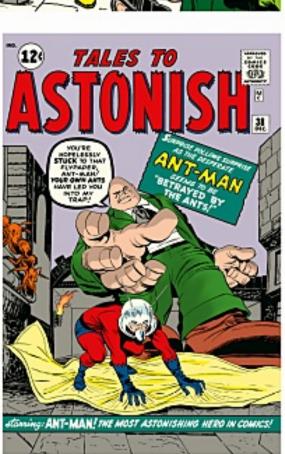




Strange Tales #102—November 1962 First appearance of the Wizard









### DEPOSITE

Tales to Astonish #37—November 1962 First and only appearance of the Protector

### TOP

Journey into Mystery #87-December 1962

### MIDDLE

Strange Tales #103-December 1962

### BOTTON

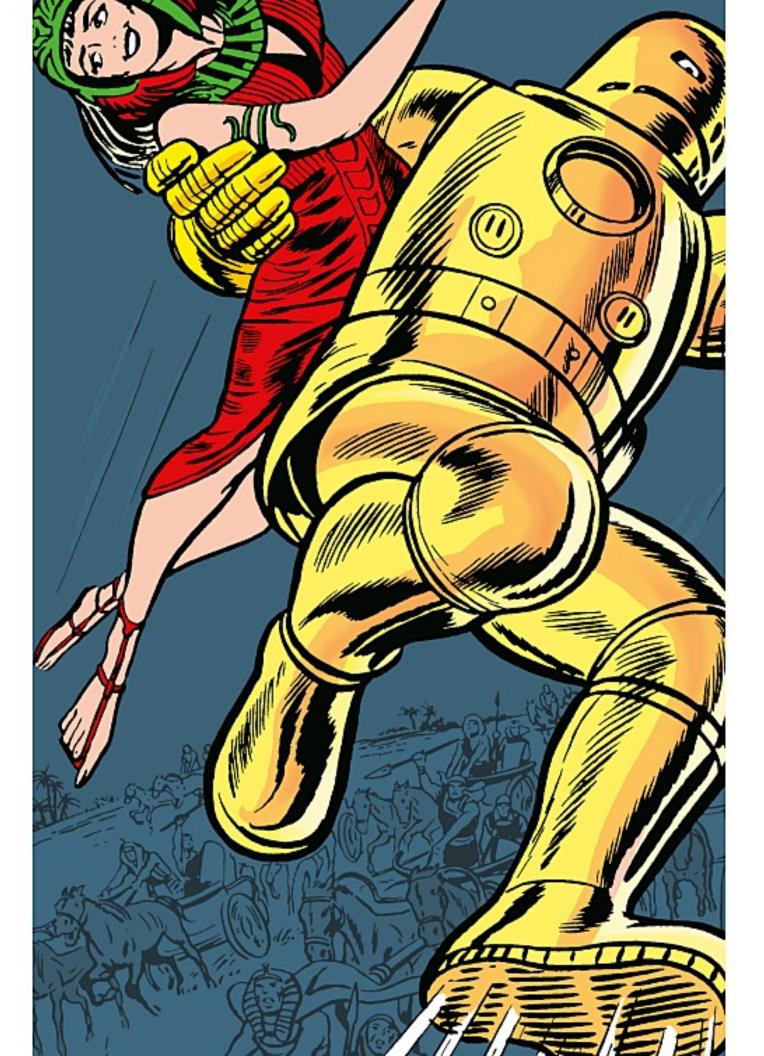
Tales to Astonish #38—December 1962 First appearance of Egghead



The Fantastic Four #9—December 1962 The Fantastic Four gets evicted!







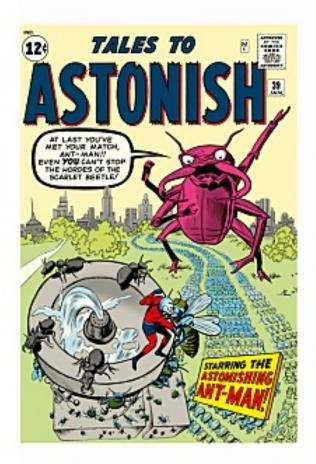




The Fantastic Four #10—January 1963 First cameo by Jack Kirby and Stan Lee



The Incredible Hulk #5—January 1963 First appearance of Tyrannus







Journey into Mystery #88-January 1963

Tales to Astonish #39-January 1963 First appearance of the Scarlet Beetle

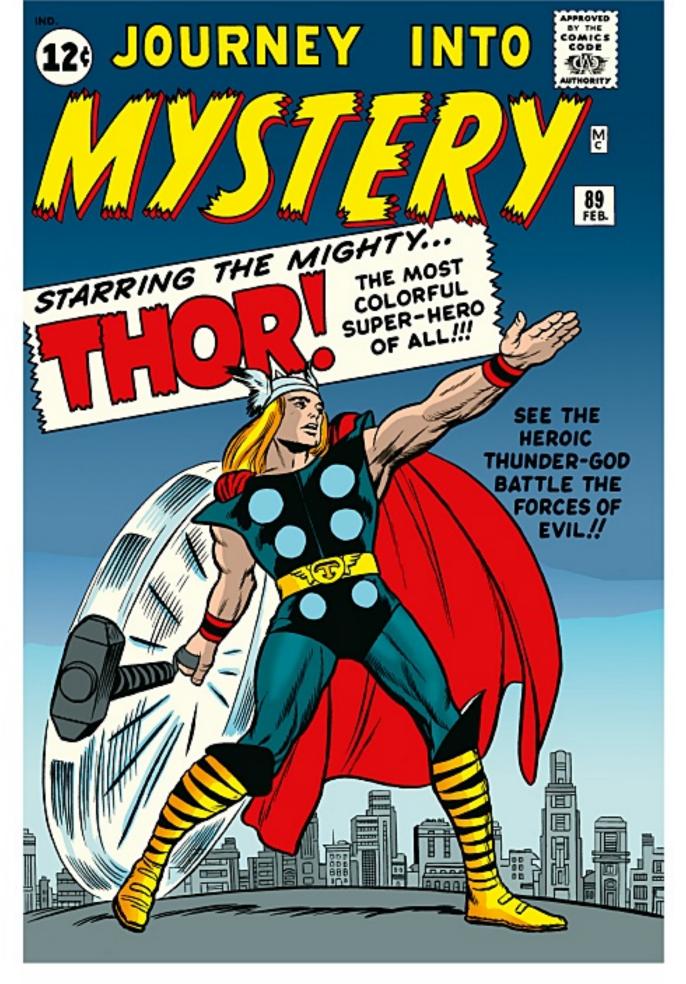
## BOTTON

Strange Tales #104—January 1963 First appearance of Paste-Pot Pete

### OPPOSITE

The Fantastic Four #11-February 1963 First appearance of the Impossible Man

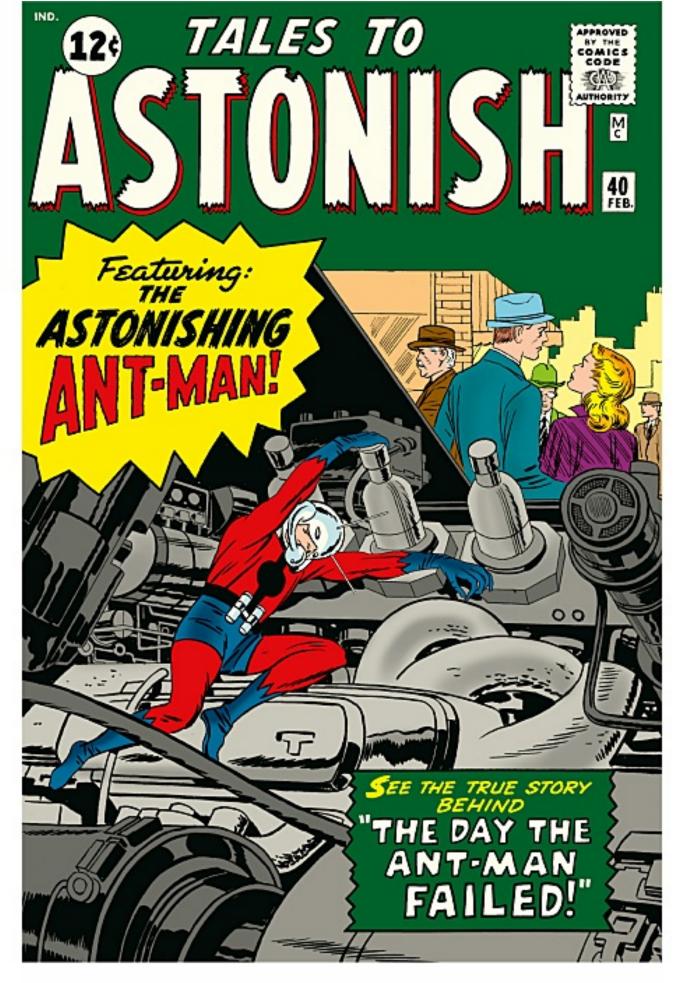




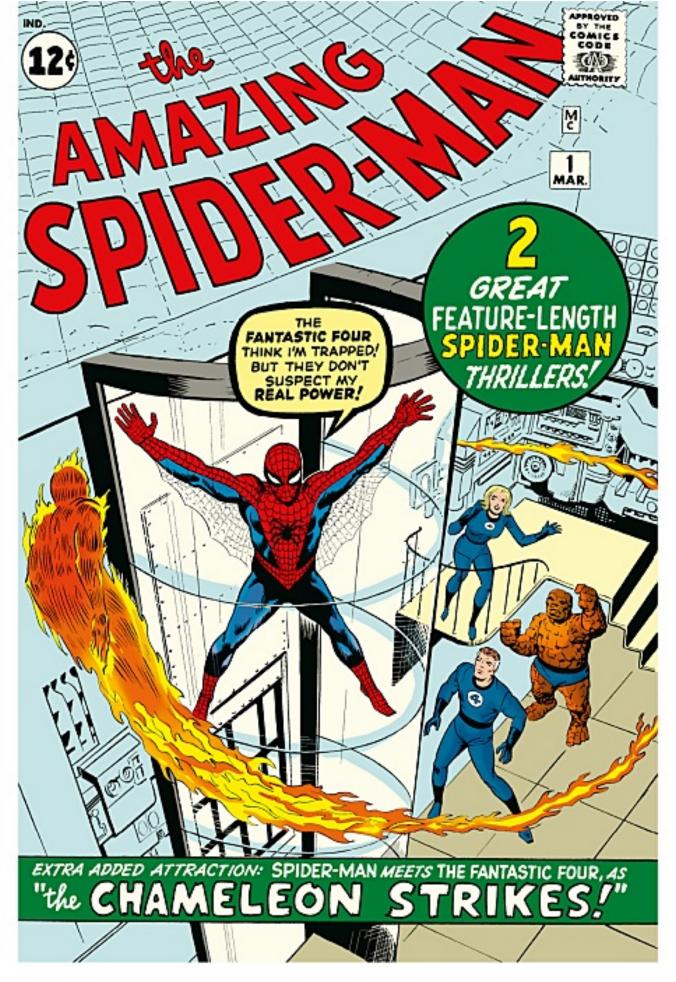
Journey into Mystery #89-February 1963



Strange Tales #105-February 1963



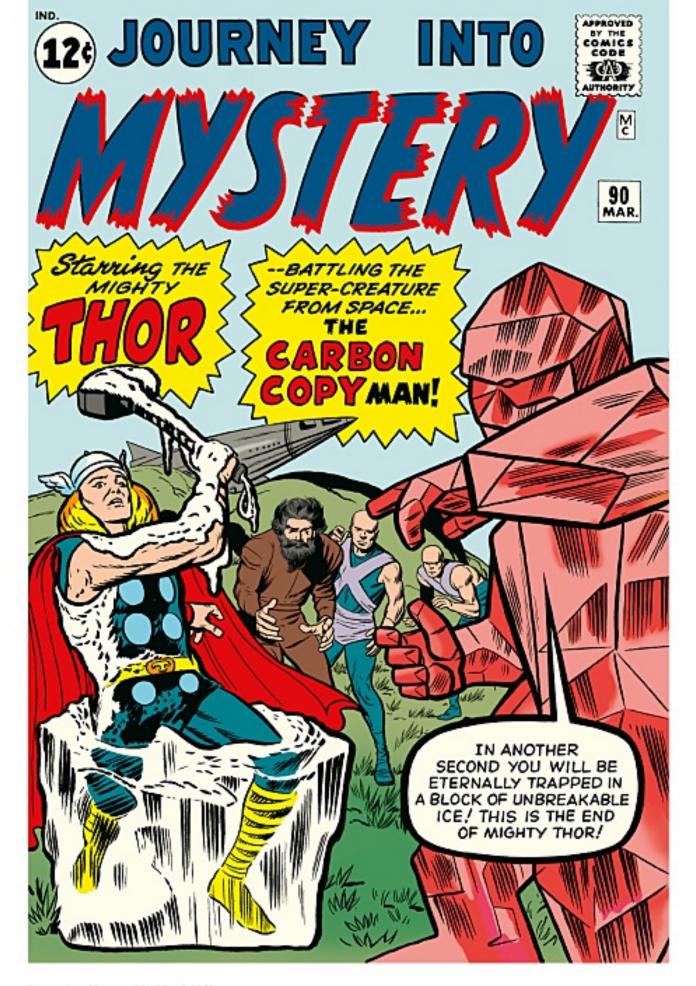
Tales to Astonish #40—February 1963 First appearance of Hijacker



The Amazing Spider-Man #1—March 1963 Inked by Steve Ditko



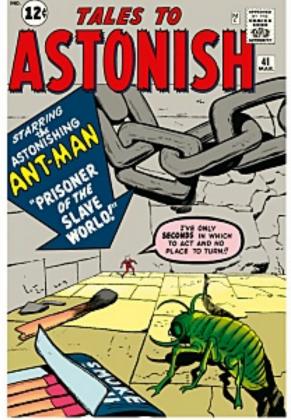
The Fantastic Four #12—March 1963
First Marvel crossover (the Fantastic Four and the Hulk)



Journey into Mystery #90—March 1963 First appearance of the Carbon Copy Men







Tales of Suspense #39-March 1963 First appearance of Tony Stark / Iron Man

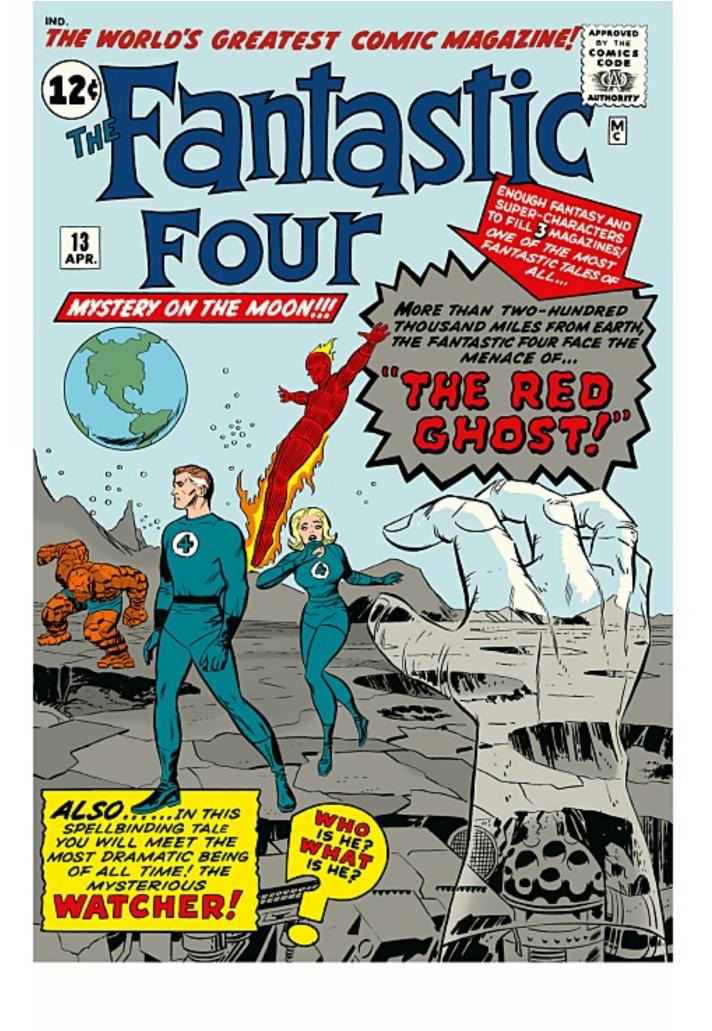
# MIDDLE

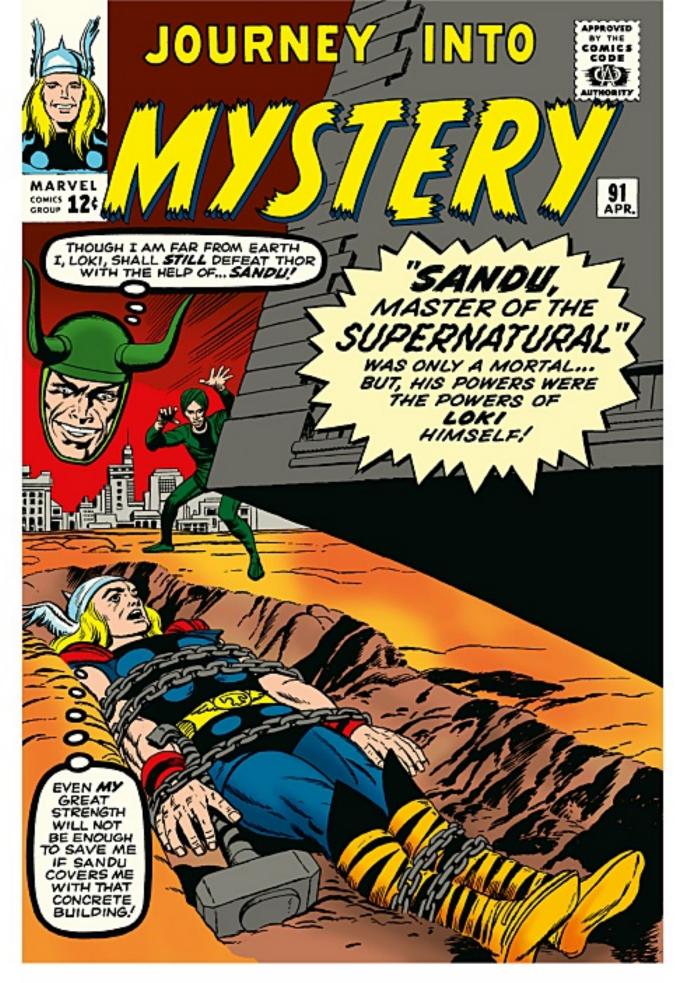
Strange Tales #106-March 1963 First and only appearance of the Torrid Twosome

Tales to Astonish #41-March 1963

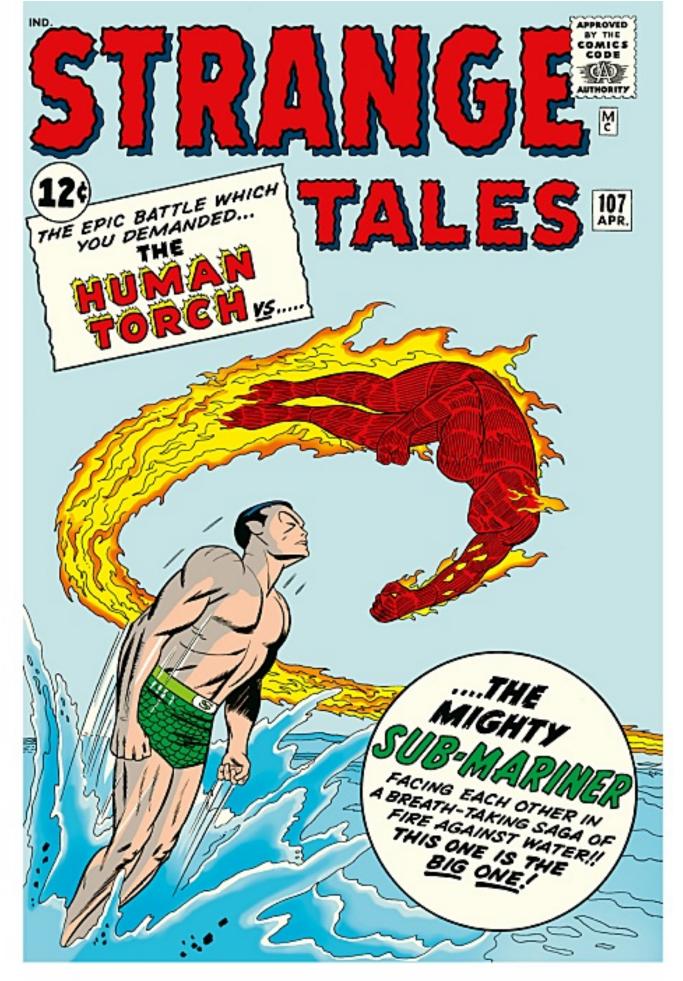
# OPPOSITE

The Fantastic Four #13-April 1963 First appearance of the Watcher and the Red Ghost

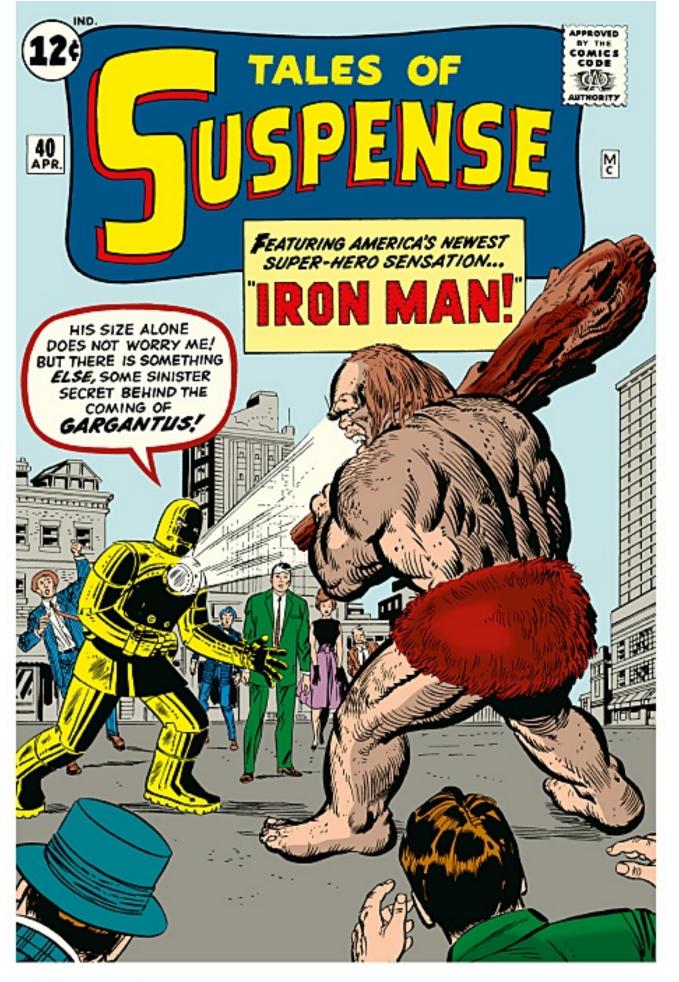




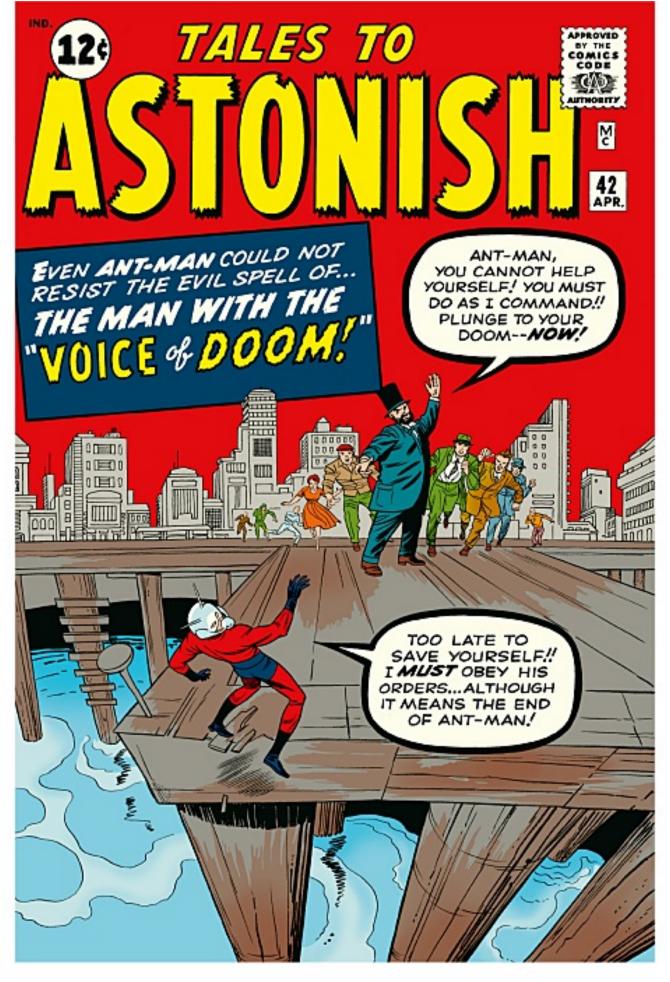
Journey into Mystery #91—April 1963 First appearance of the Valkyries



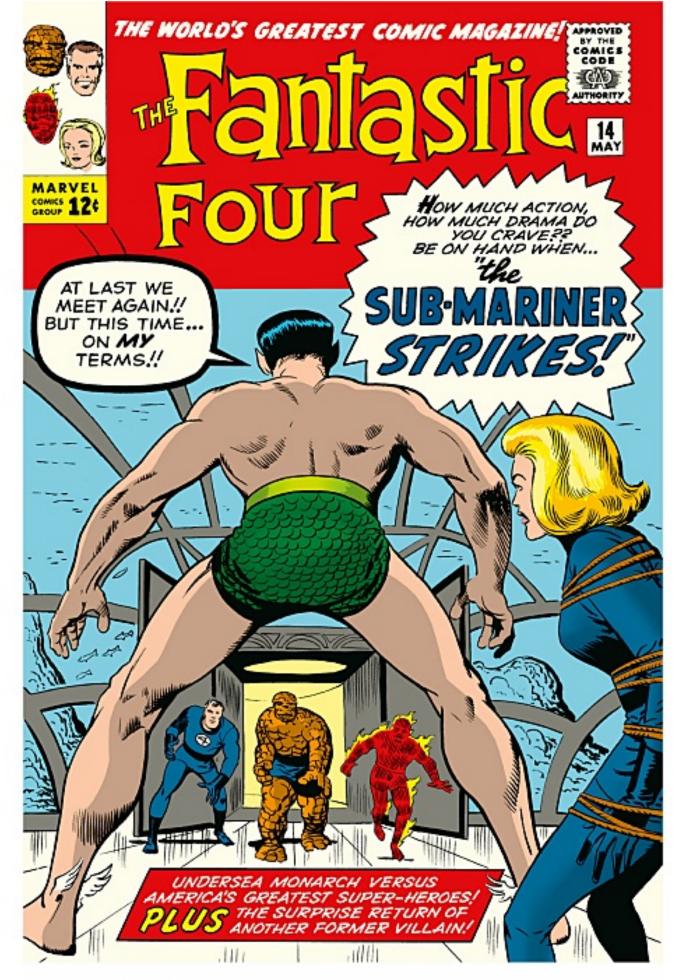
Strange Tales #107—April 1963
The Sub-Mariner vs. the Human Torch in the Silver Age!



Tales of Suspense #40—April 1963 First and only appearance of Gargantus



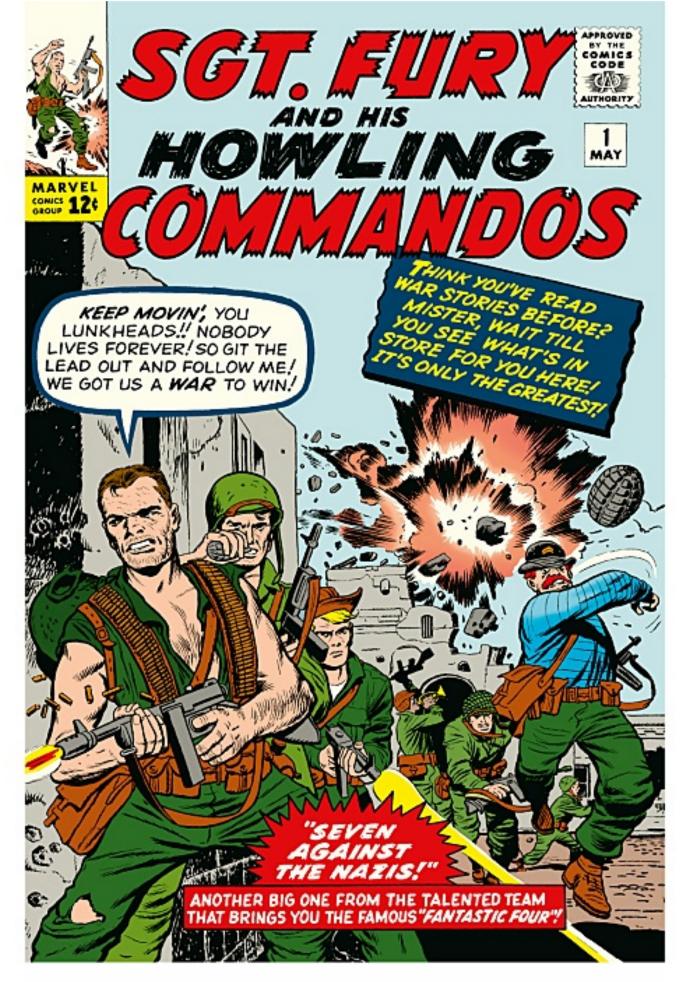
Tales to Astonish #42—April 1963 First appearance of the Voice of Doom



The Fantastic Four #14-May 1963



Journey into Mystery #92-May 1963



Sgt. Fury and His Houling Commandos #1—May 1963
First appearance of Nick Fury and the Howling Commandos



Strange Tales #108—May 1963 First appearance of the Painter



Tales of Suspense #41—May 1963 First and only appearance of Dr. Carlo Strange



IS THIS THE END OF ANT-MAN?





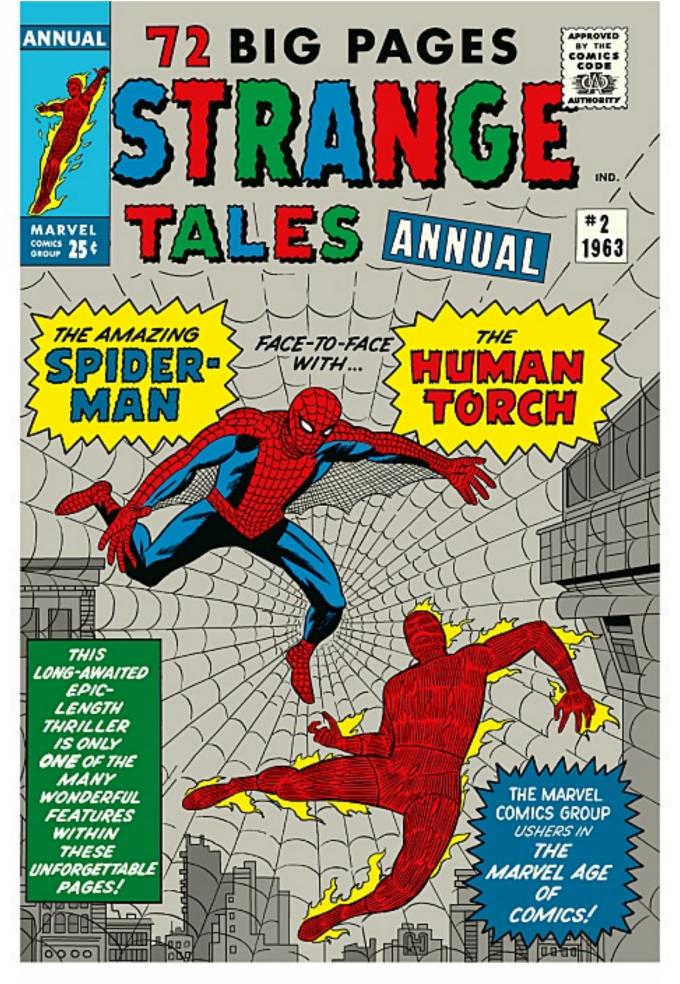




Tales to Astonish #43—May 1963 First and only appearance of Time Master



Fantastic Four Annual #1—Summer 1963 First Marvel annual



Strange Tales Annual #2-Summer 1963









### OPPOSITE

Tales of Suspense #42-June 1963

### TOP

Journey into Mystery #93—June 1963 First appearance of Radioactive Man

### NIDDLE

The Funtastic Four #15—June 1963
First appearance of the Awesome Android,
the Mad Thinker, and the Yancy Street Gang

# BOTTON

Strange Tales #109—June 1963 First appearance of the Sorcerer



Tales to Astonish #44—June 1963 First appearance of Janet Van Dyne / the Wasp



Fantastic Four #16—July 1963 Ant-Man crossover



Journey into Mystery #94-July 1963



Sgt. Fury and His Howling Commandos #2-July 1963



Strange Tales #110—July 1963 First appearance of Dr. Stephen Strange



Tales of Suspense #43—July 1963 First appearance of the Netherworlders



Tales to Astonish #45-July 1963



Fantastic Four #17-August 1963



Journey into Mystery #95-August 1963



Strange Tales #111—August 1963 First appearance of the Asbestos Man



Tales of Suspense #44—August 1963 First appearance of Cleopatra



Tales to Astonish #46-August 1963



The Avengers #1—September 1963 First appearance of the Avengers



Fantastic Four #18—September 1963 First appearance of the Super-Skrull





#### TOP

Sgt. Fury and His Howling Commandes #3 September 1963

# MIDDLE

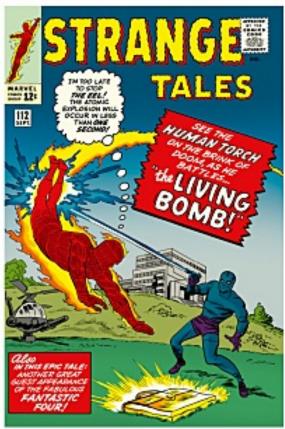
Journey into Mystery #96—September 1963 First appearance of Mad Merlin

## BOTTOM

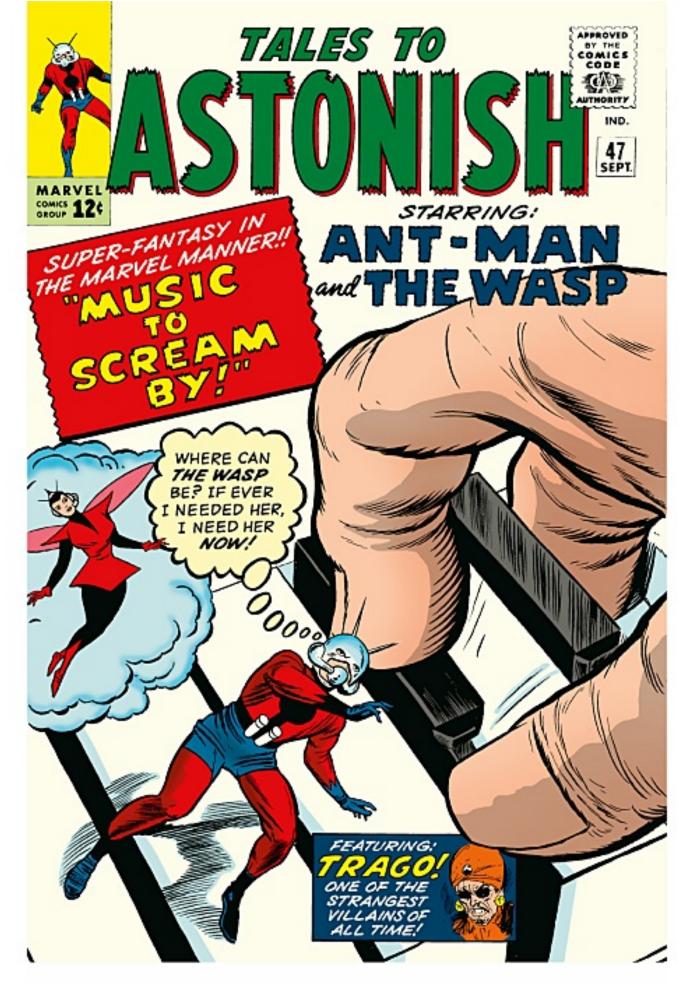
Strange Tales #112—September 1963 First appearance of the Eel

# OPPOSITE

Tales of Suspense #45—September 1963 First appearance of Jack Frost







Tales to Astonish #47—September 1963 First appearance of Trago



The X-Men #1—September 1963 First appearance of the X-Men and Magneto



Fantastic Four #19—October 1963 First appearance of Rama-Tut



Journey into Mystery #97—October 1963 First appearance of Molto the Lava Man



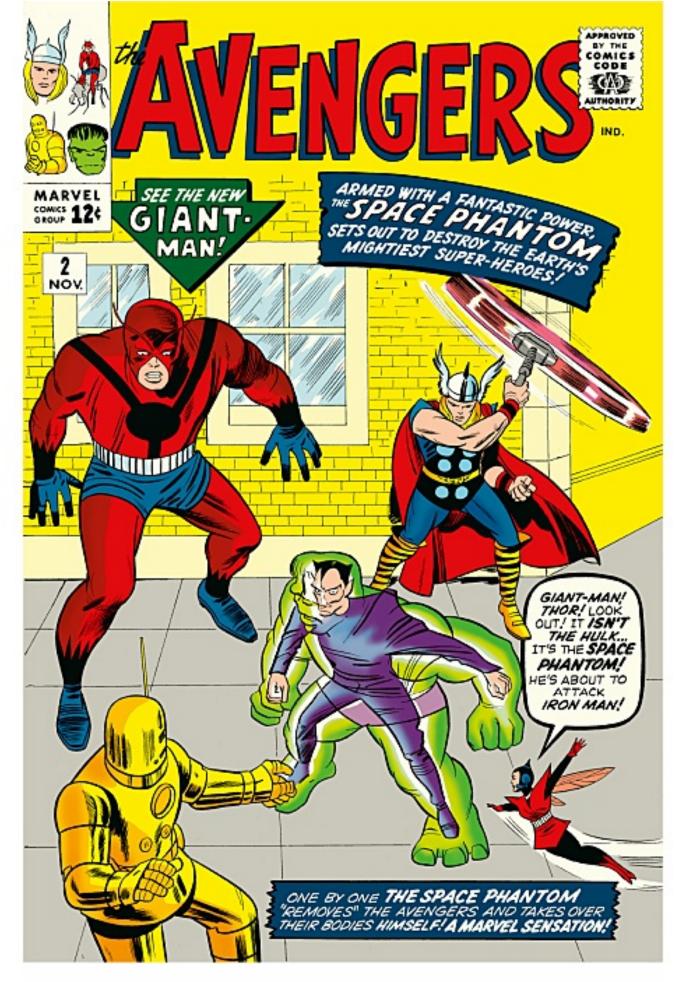
Strange Tales #113—October 1963 First appearance of the Plantman



Tales of Suspense #46—October 1963 First appearance of Anton Vanko / the Crimson Dynamo



Tales to Astonish #48—October 1963 First appearance of the Porcupine



The Avengers #2—November 1963 First appearance of the Space Phantom



Fantastic Four #20—November 1963 First appearance of the Molecule Man



Journey into Mystery #98—November 1963 First appearance of the Cobra









### OPPOSITE

Strange Tales #114—November 1963
First appearance of the Captain America costume
in the Silver Age, worn by an impostor

#### TOP

Tales of Suspense #47—November 1963 First appearance of the Melter

### NIDDLE

Sgt. Fury and His Howling Commandos #4 November 1963

#### BOTTON

The X-Men #2—November 1963 First appearance of the Vanisher



Fantastic Four #21—December 1963
First appearance of the Hate-Monger / Adolf Hitler



Journey into Mystery #99—December 1963 First appearance of Mister Hyde



Strange Tales #115-December 1963



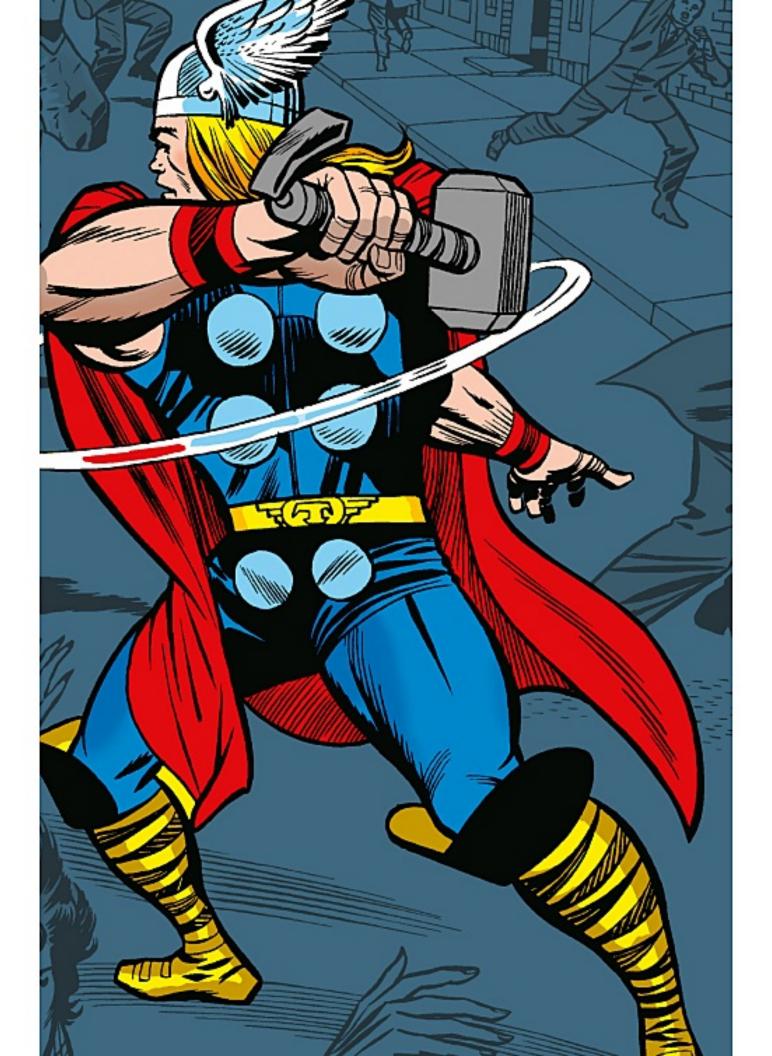
Tales of Suspense #48—December 1963 First appearance of Iron Man Armor Model 2

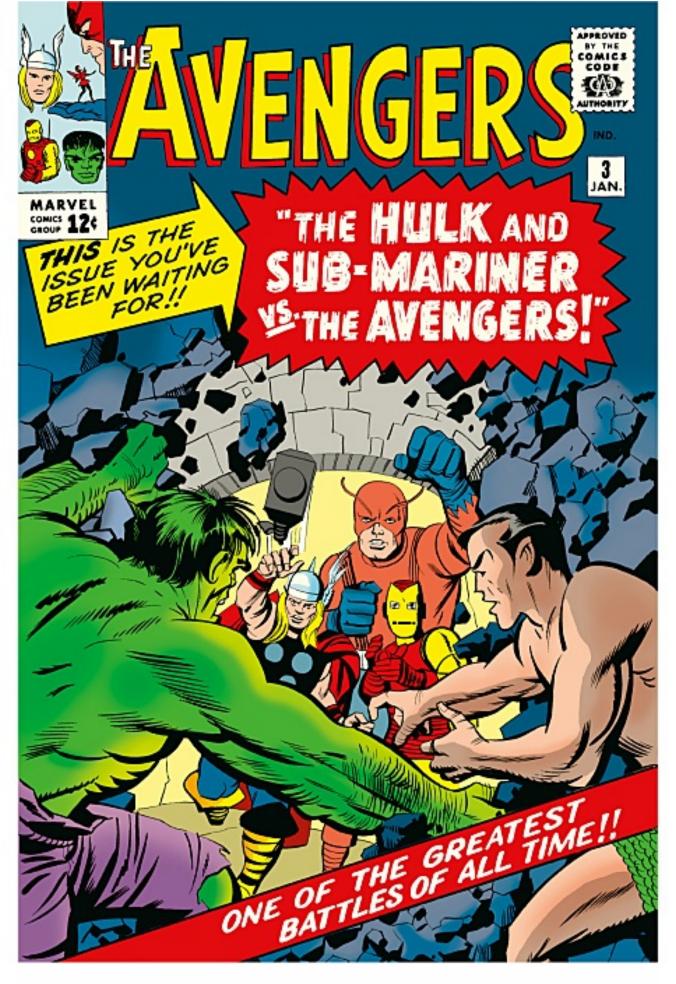


Tales to Astonish #50—December 1963 First appearance of Human Top





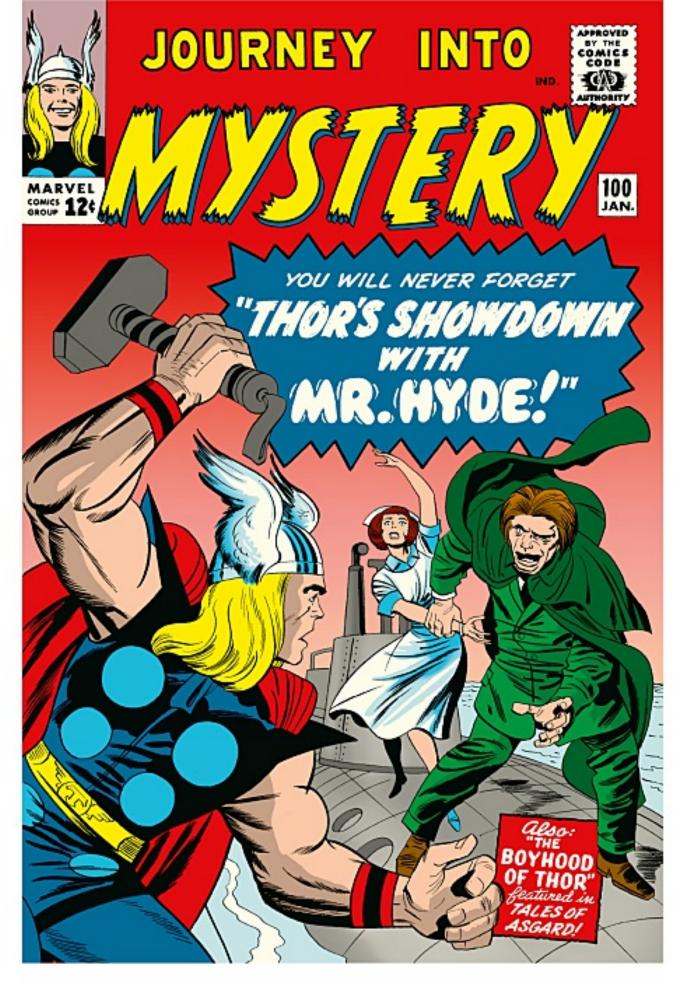




The Avengers #3-January 1964



Fantastic Four #22-January 1964



Journey into Mystery #100-January 1964



Strange Tales #116-January 1964









# DEPOSITE

Tales of Suspense #49-January 1964

# TOP

The X-Men #3—January 1964 First appearance of the Blob

# MIDDLE

Sgt. Fury and His Howling Commandos #5-January 1964

# BOTTON

Tales to Astonish #51-January 1964



Fantastic Four #23-February 1964



Journey into Mystery #101-February 1964



Strange Tales #117-February 1964



Tales of Suspense #50—February 1964 First appearance of the Mandarin



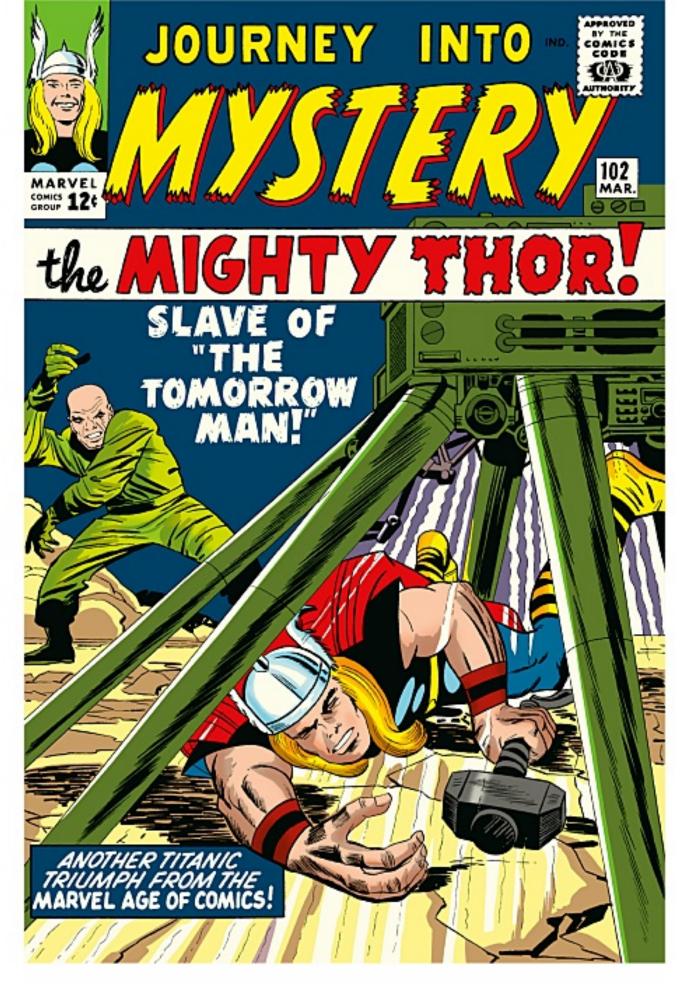
Tales to Astonish #52—February 1964 The Black Knight's first Silver Age appearance



The Avengers #4—March 1964 Captain America's first Silver Age appearance



Fantastic Four #24—March 1964 First appearance of the Infant Terrible



Journey into Mystery #102-March 1964







# TOP

Strange Tales #118-March 1964

# NIDOLI

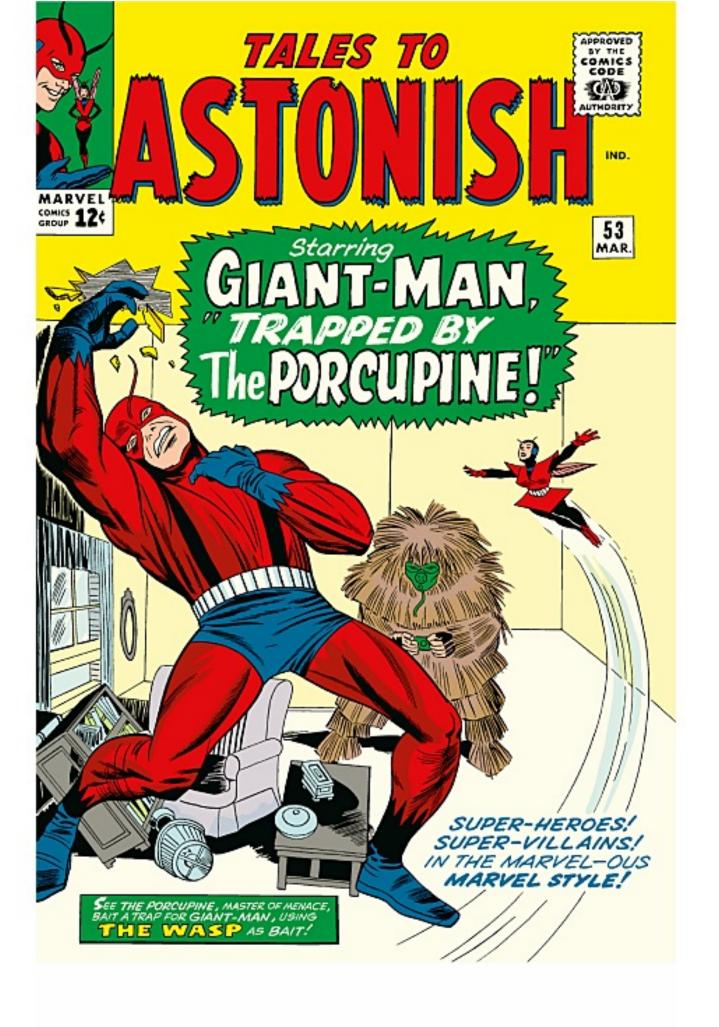
Sgt. Fury and His Howling Commandos #6 March 1964

# BOTTON

Tales of Suspense #51-March 1964

# OPPOSITE

Tales to Astonish #53-March 1964





The X-Men #4—March 1964
First appearance of the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants



Daredevil #1—April 1964
First appearance of Matt Murdock / Daredevil
Co-artist Bill Everett

CAN **YOU** GUESS WHY DAREDEVIL IS **DIFFEREN** FROM ALL OTHER IN THIS ISSUE YOU WILL MEET...

MAT-TS-

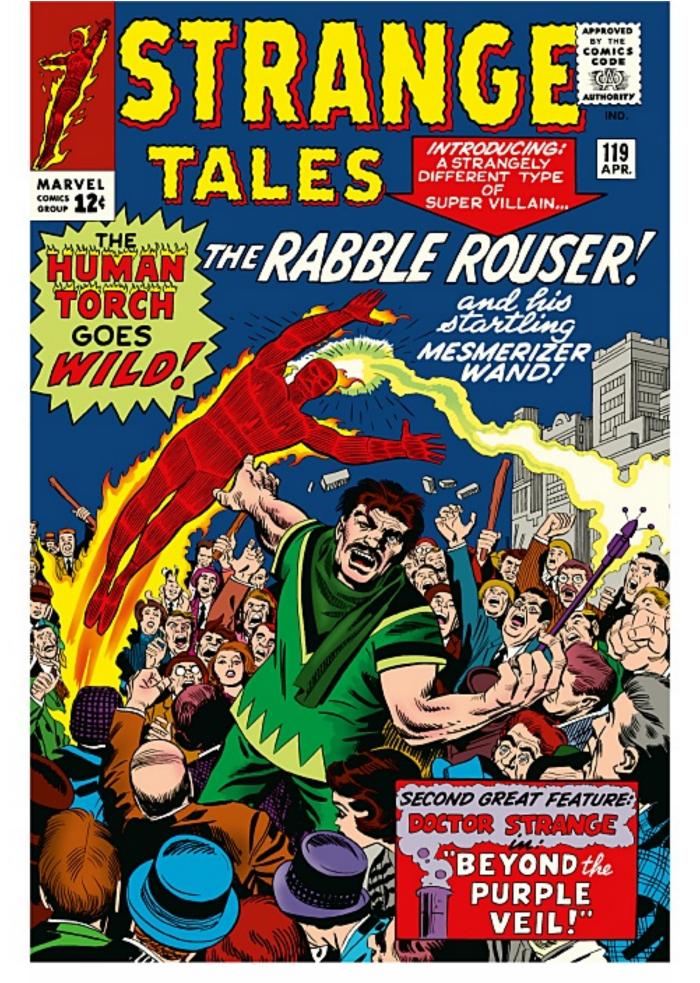
GORGEOUS KAREN "PAGE



Fantastic Four #25—April 1964 First Hulk fight: Hulk vs. the Thing



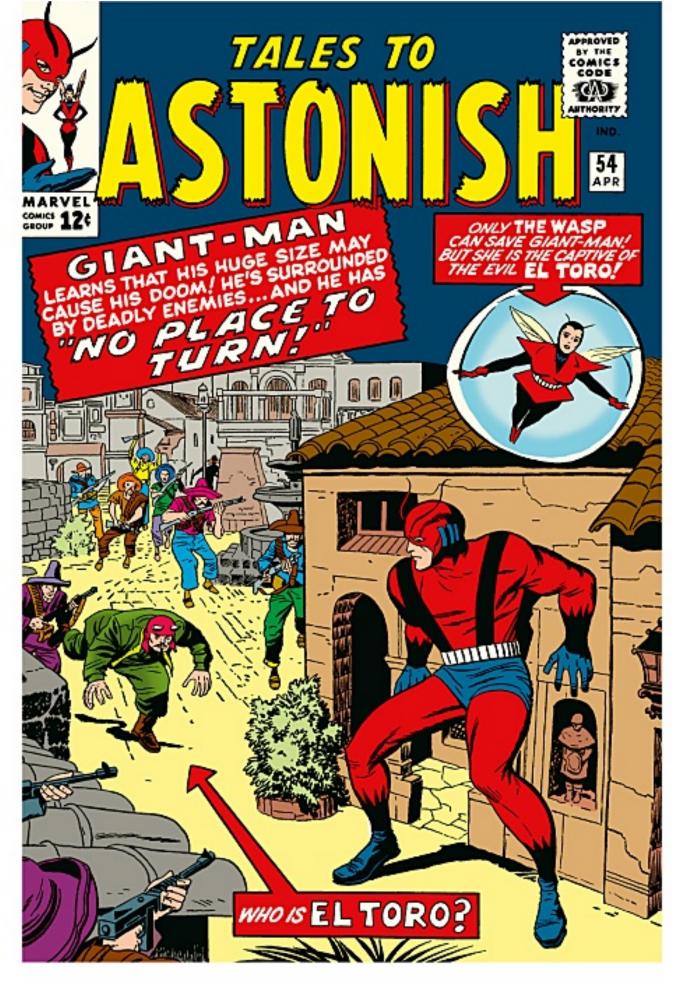
Journey into Mystery #103—April 1964 First appearance of the Enchantress and the Executioner



Strange Tales #119—April 1964 First appearance of the Rabble Rouser



Tales of Suspense #52—April 1964 First appearance of the Black Widow



Tales to Astonish #54—April 1964 First appearance of El Toro



The Avengers #5-May 1964



Fantastic Four #26—May 1964 Crossover with the Avengers



Journey into Mystery #104-May 1964









# OPPOSITE

Tales of Suspense #53-May 1964

# TOP

Tales to Astonish #55-May 1964

# MIDDLE

Sgt. Fury and His Howling Commandos #7-May 1964

# BOTTON

Strange Tales #120-May 1964



The X-Men #5-May 1964



Fantastic Four Annual #2—Summer 1964 The origin of Doctor Doom!



Marvel Tales Annual #1—Summer 1964 Spider-Man drawn by Steve Ditko



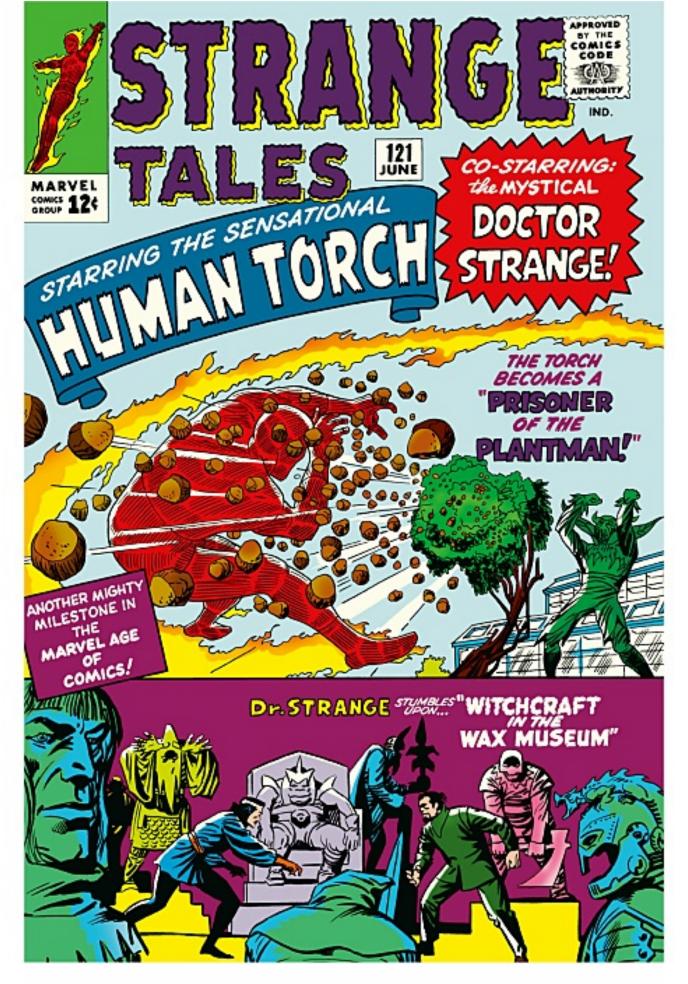
Daredevil #2-June 1964



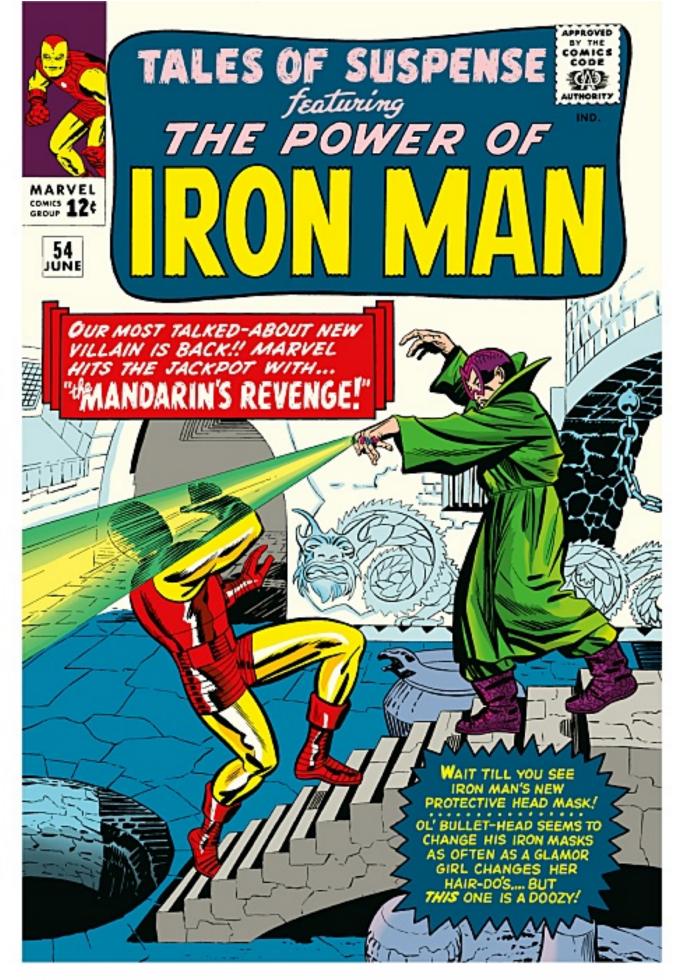
Fantastic Four #27—June 1964 Crossover with Doctor Strange



Journey into Mystery #105-June 1964



Strange Tales #121-June 1964



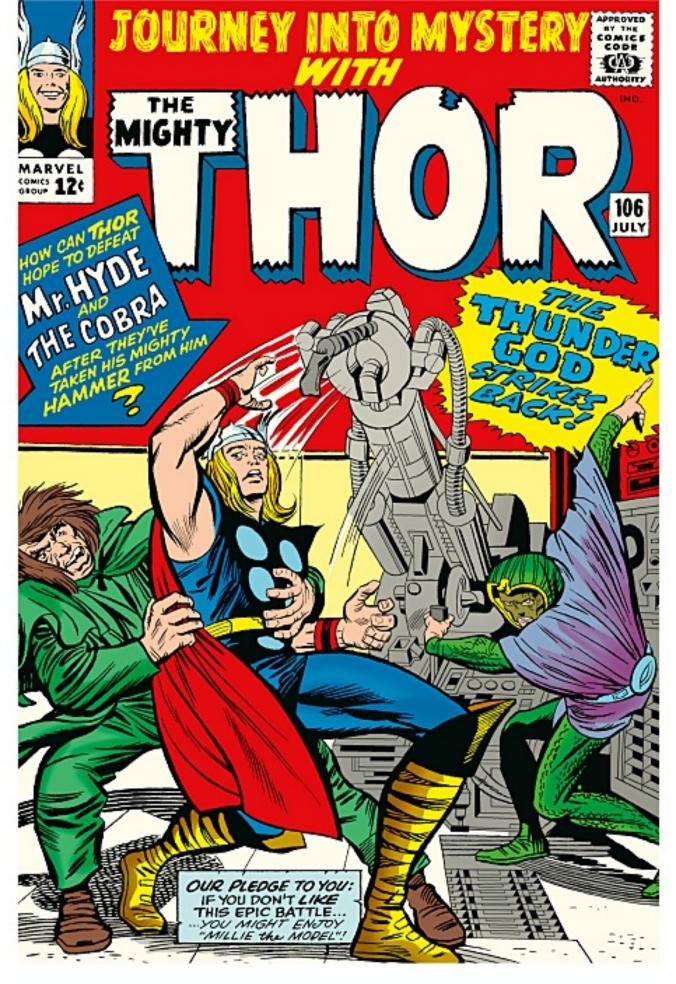
Tales of Suspense #54-June 1964



Tales to Astonish #56—June 1964 First appearance of the Magician



Fantastic Four #28—July 1964 Crossover with the X-Men



Journey into Mystery #106-July 1964



Tales of Suspense #55-July 1964







# TOP

The Avengers #6-July 1964 First appearance of Baron Zemo

## MIDDLE

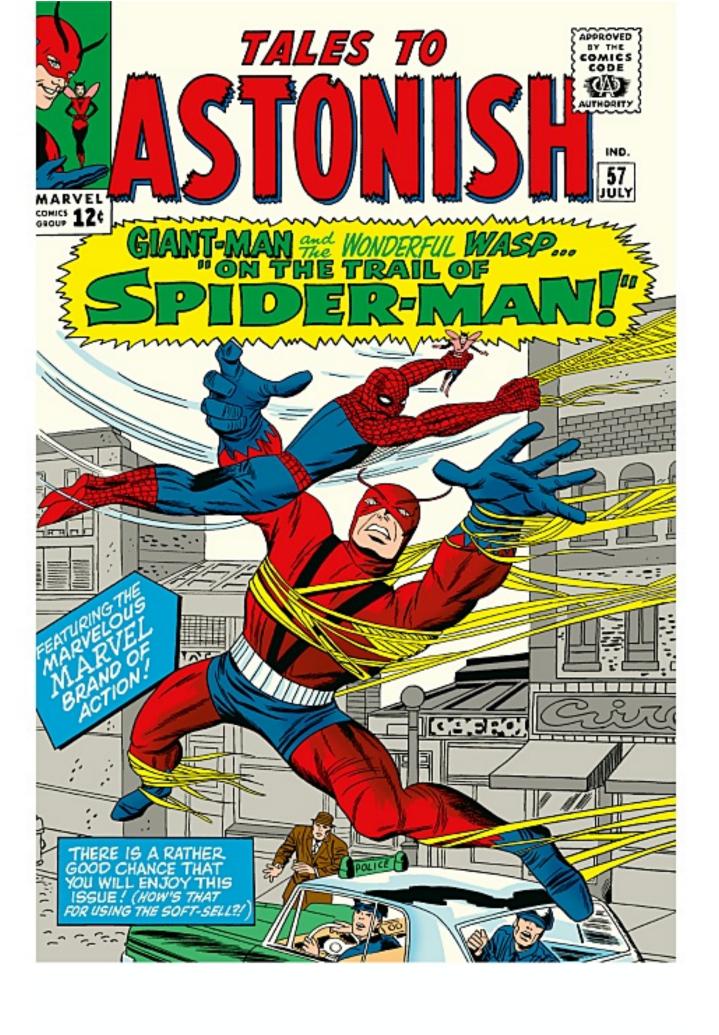
Strange Tales #122-July 1964

### BOTTON

Sgt. Fury and His Houling Commandos #8-July 1964

# OPPOSITE

Tales to Astonish #57—July 1964





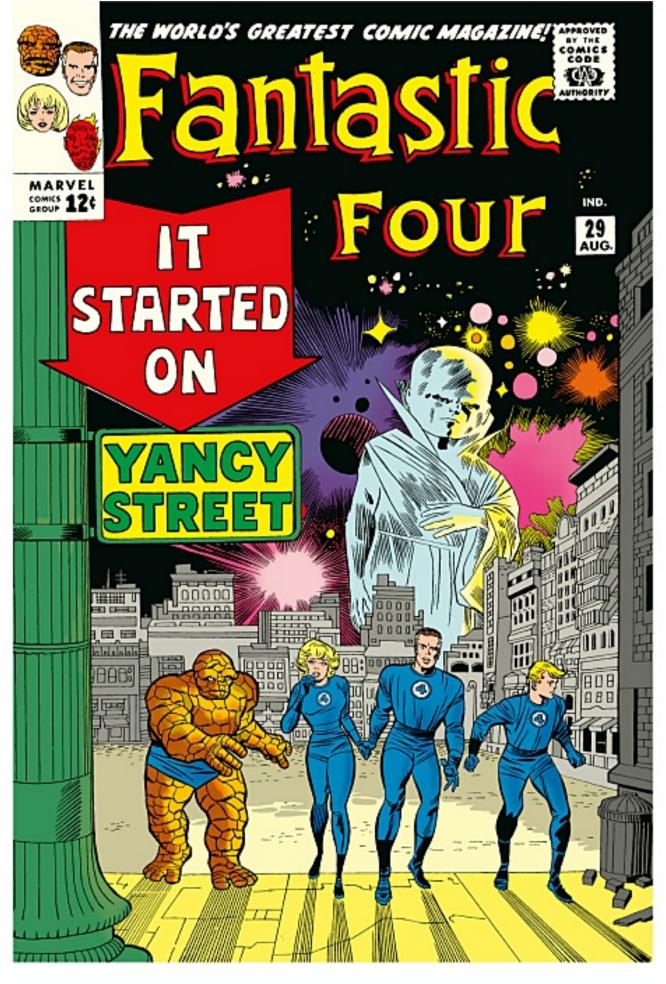
The X-Men #6-July 1964



The Avengers #7-August 1964



Daredevil #3—August 1964 First appearance of the Owl



Fantastic Four #29-August 1964



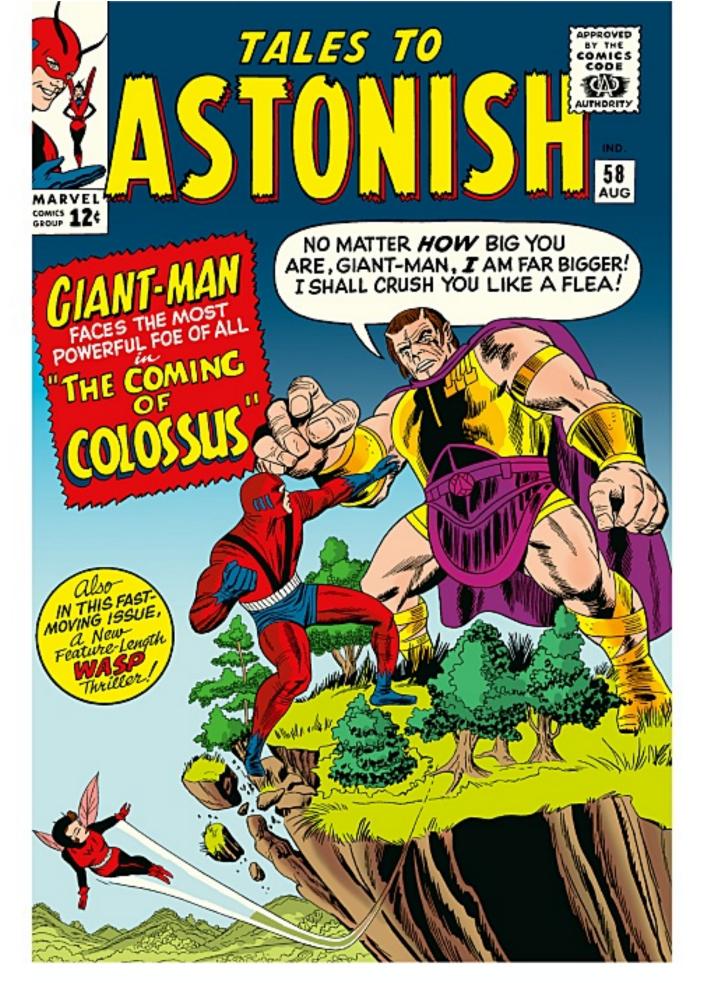
Journey into Mystery #107—August 1964 First appearance of the Grey Gargoyle



Strange Tales #123—August 1964 First appearance of the Beetle



Tales of Suspense #56—August 1964 First appearance of the Unicorn



Tales to Astonish #58—August 1964 First appearance of Colossus



The Avengers #8—September 1964 First appearance of Kang the Conqueror



Fantastic Four #30—September 1964 First appearance of Diablo



Journey into Mystery #108-September 1964



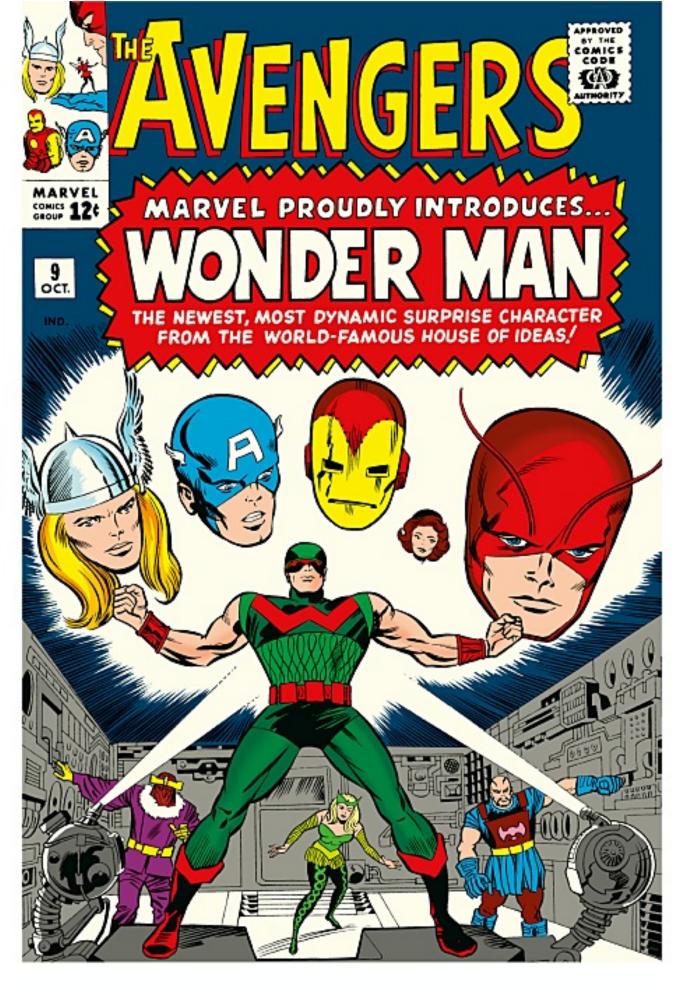
Sgt. Fury and His Howling Commandos #10-September 1964



Tales to Astonish #59—September 1964 Giant-Man vs. Hulk!



The X-Men #7-September 1964



The Avengers #9—October 1964 First appearance of Wonder Man



Daredevil #4—October 1964 First appearance of the Purple Man



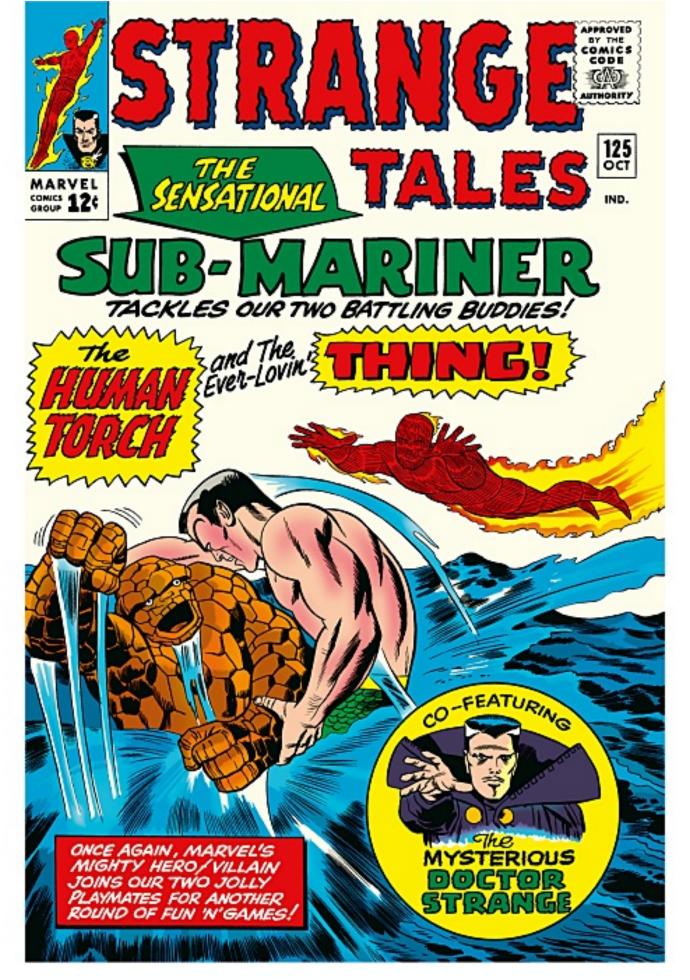
Fantastic Four #31-October 1964



Journey into Mystery #109-October 1964



Sgt. Fury and His Howling Commandos #11-October 1964



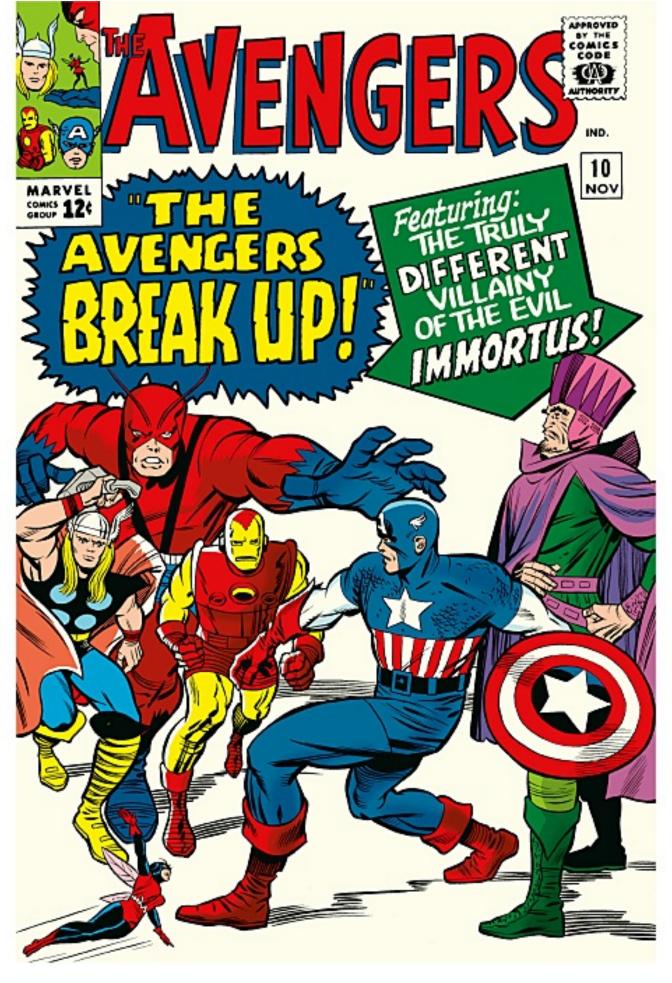
Strange Tales #125-October 1964



Tales of Suspense #58-October 1964



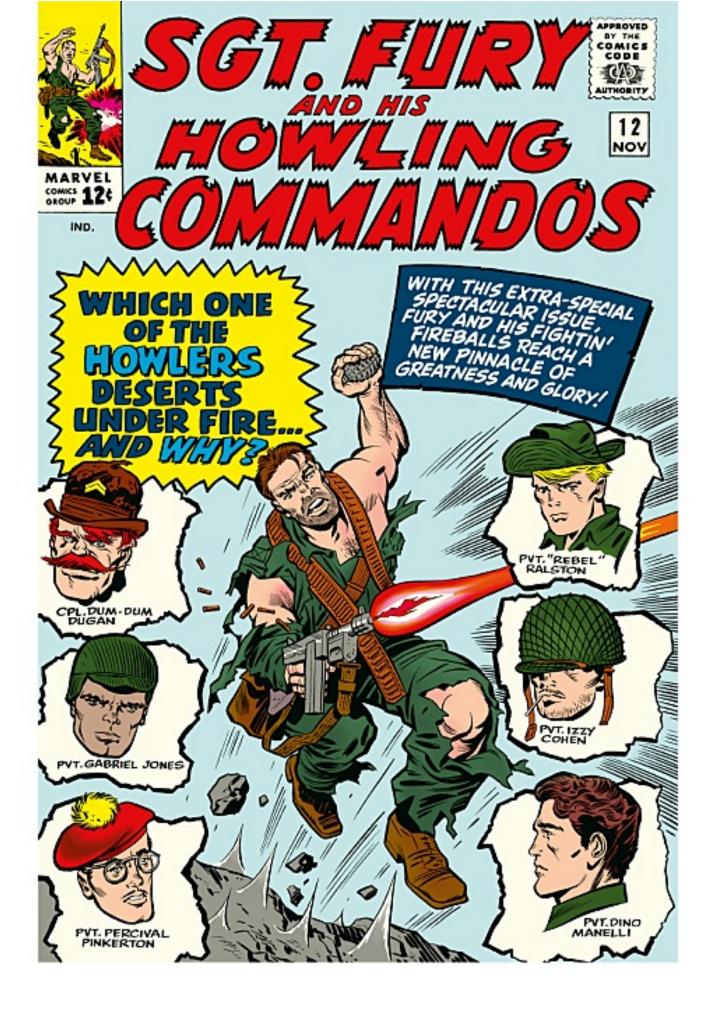
Tales to Astonish #60-October 1964



The Avengers #10—November 1964 First appearance of Immortus



Fantastic Four #32-November 1964









#### neenciri

Sgt. Fury and His Howling Commandos #12 November 1964

#### TOP

Journey into Mystery #110-November 1964

#### NIDDLI

Tales to Astonish #61—November 1964 First and only appearance of Egghead's android

### BOTTON

Strange Tales #126-November 1964



Tales of Suspense #59-November 1964



The X-Men #8—November 1964 First appearance of Unus the Untouchable



The Avengers #11-December 1964



Fantastic Four #33—December 1964 First appearance of Attuma



Journey into Mystery #111-December 1964



Sgt. Fury and His Howling Commandos #13-December 1964



Strange Tales #127-December 1964



Tales of Suspense #60-December 1964



Tales to Astonish #62-December 1964



# JACK "KING" KIRBY 1917-1994

The work of Jack Kirby helped define the super hero, expanded the power of the comic book, and brought thrilling tales of wonder and adventure to millions throughout the world.

Jacob Kurtzberg was born in 1917, the son of European Jewish immigrants. He grew up in New York's Lower East Side neighborhood during the Great Depression, where he faced fights every day just to walk to school. Those fights were a firsthand influence on the dynamic action he would bring to the pages of his comics.

He was inclined at an early age to pursue drawing, inspired by the comic strips of Milton Caniff and Hal Foster. Taking the pen name "Jack Kirby," he would go on to work in Max Fleischer's animation studio, illustrating for Lincoln Features syndicate, and winding up at the comic book publishing house of Victor Fox. At Fox's studio he met Joe Simon, a fellow writer and artist. The two decided to strike out on their own—a collaboration that would endure for sixteen years. One of their first jobs was working for the company that would one day be known as Marvel.

In spring 1941, Jack and Joe Simon created their biggest and most influential blockbuster comic, Captain America Comics #1. Its titular hero punched Adolf Hitler in the jaw on its iconic cover, months before America had joined the war. That comic helped redefine what comics could be with its innovative page designs and proportion-exploding panels.

After serving honorably in World War II and working briefly for National/DC, Jack returned to Marvel and began to collaborate with Stan Lee, his former assistant and now his editor. They worked on western, war, and monster comics before lightning struck. In 1961, Stan and Jack produced Fantastic Four #1, and began what has become known as the Marvel Age of Comics. It was during this time that Jack earned the nickname "the King," and his way of working became so popular that it set the tone throughout the '60s. Jack brought his dynamic layouts, unparalleled action, and unbridled creativity to the fore in books such as Fantastic Four, Avengers, X-Men, Incredible Hulk, and Thor, creating a legion of characters now known throughout the world.

He was inducted into the Will Eisner Award Hall of Fame's 1987 inaugural class and continued creating comics into the '90s.

Jack passed away on February 6, 1994.









### THE MARVEL COMICS COVERS OF JACK KIRBY

VOLUME 1: 1961-1964

Artwork by Jack "King" Kirby

Introduction by Patrick McDonnell

Edited and Designed by Vincent Indevair, John Lind, and Mike Essl

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"This collection is the first in a definitive series of every Marvel super-hero cover Kirby ever drew. It's another glorious testament to the quality and quantity of work produced by one of America's greatest artists in any field."

## - PATRICK McDONNELL

FROM HIS INTRODUCTION





















This volume is the first in a series that collects Kirby's complete Marvel Comics covers in chronological order, beginning with 1961 to 1964. It includes some of Kirby's most dynamic and impactful covers, featuring the earliest appearances of the Fantastic Four, the X-Men, the Hulk, Spider-Man, and Iron Man, among many others.

Whether you're a longtime Kirby fan or a newcomer to the genius of Kirby's work, this book will prove an indispensable reference edition for your library.

Introduction by award-winning cartoonist, author, and Kirby aficionado Patrick McDonnell (Mutts, The Super Hero's Journey).





